Survey and Settlement Operations
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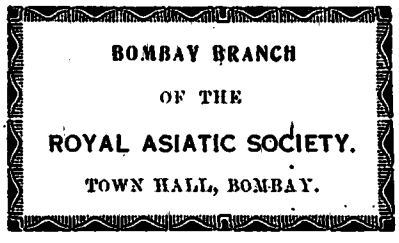

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REPORT

ON THE

SURVEY AND SETTLEMENT OPERATIONS IN ASSAM

FOR THE

Year ending 30th September 1916.

1915-16.

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REPORT

ON THE

SURVEY OPERATIONS IN ASSAM

FOR THE

Year ending 30th September 1916.

LIBRARY OF THE ROYAL BOMBAY BRANCH OF THE ASIATIC

No. 1474—XIII-6, dated Shillong, the 7th December 1916.

From—Lieut.-Colonel R. T. CRICHTON, C.I.E., I.A, Superintendent, Eastern Circle, Survey of India, in charge, Assam Surveys,

To—The Chief Secretary to the Hon'ble the Chief Commissioner of Assam.

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report on Assam Surveys for the year ending the 30th September 1916.

1. The Department was joint with Bengal from 1st October to 5th of December 1915 when I took over the control of the Assam Traverse Party, Shillong Drawing office and Assam Survey School from Major Hirst, Director of Surveys, Bengal and Assam, on the afternoon of the 4th December 1915, but the actual separation took effect from the 6th December 1915.

2. Mr. Shaw was retained in Assam on special duty in connection with compilation of Survey Gazetteers and also to aid me generally, especially with his knowledge and experience of local conditions, but unfortunately Mr. Shaw was seriously ill from the time I took over charge and died on 24th March 1916.

3. The original intention was to keep Mr. O. E. C. Judd in Assam to hold the charge of the combined offices with Mr. Gasper from Bengal as his Assistant, but this was afterwards changed and Mr. Smart took over charge of the Assam Party from Mr. Judd on the 6th of December 1915.

Mr. Gasper, Sub-Deputy Collector, also joined Assam Surveys from the same date. He was appointed as an Extra Assistant Commissioner from 1st April 1916.

4. The two offices have since been combined into one charge.

5. There was no change in the Assam Survey School and Maulvi Talmizur Rahaman Chaudhury, a Sub-Deputy Collector, is the Principal of the School.

6. The Provincial Survey Department has been added to my charge temporarily, experimentally for one year, but a report has been submitted to the Government of India by the Surveyor General, with the consent of the Local Administration, proposing to allow this temporary arrangement to continue till the end of war.

The cost of the temporary arrangement is proving to be well within the estimate.

7. The revision of the ministerial and menial staff of the now combined offices was sanctioned with effect from the date of separation and reported to the Government of India by the Chief Commissioner in connection with the cost of the rearrangements as called for by them in their telegram No. 20C., dated the 16th November 1915.

II.—REPORT ON THE WORK OF ASSAM TRAVERSE PARTY.

8. There is actually no regular traverse programme in Assam except extension surveys in Kamrup and Darrang but there are several minor scattered operations, in connection principally with relaying of boundaries.

I attach hereto a list of operations with brief details of the work done by the party.

9. Technical descriptive details of each operation cannot be stated here within the prescribed limits of this report, but they are filed in my office and can be referred to at any time.

10. With reference to certain items referred to in the last year's report I have the following remarks to make:—

Item 7 of the last year's list.—Census of G. T. marks.

11. The work has been completed in districts Sylhet and Goalpara.

As regards extension of the scheme to other districts, the matter is still under my consideration and a report will be submitted to the Local Administration shortly.

The work was considered Imperial, but it has recently been decided to be Provincial.

Item 8.—Goalpara-Bhutan boundary.

12. The only work which remained to be done was to obtain the acceptance by the Bhutan authorities of the boundary as relaid by the Survey Department which has been accorded by them. I understand the Bhutan Darbar has now been addressed to get the new maps signed by the Bhutan authorities.

Item 9.—Relaying pillar No. 81 of the Bhutan-Kamrup boundary.

13. The attempt to relay this pillar as shown on Macdonald's map has caused a lot of trouble and the conclusion now arrived at is that a pillar actually found on the ground, nearly two miles in a north-westerly direction of where it had been shown in Macdonald's map, is really the old pillar No. 81 and steps are now being taken to show this pillar on the maps in its correct position as found on the ground.

The whole job is "Imperial."

Item 21.—Demarcation of boundary between Patharia and Pratabgarh.

14. This work was expected to be completed this year, but it could not be done, as nothing was decided by the Deputy Commissioner, Sylhet, as to the line to be permanently demarcated between Patharia and Pratabgarh.

Item 25.—Relaying Sylhet and Khasi and Jaintia Hills boundary.

15. Local Government has decided not to take further action for the present.

Item 29.—Lakhimpur Tea Grant.

16. This was not done this year, as the Deputy Commissioner did not ask for it to be taken up.

The Local Administration has also directed me to exclude this from the programme for next year.

III.—Extension Surveys in Kamrup and Darrang.

17. Progress has been fair. No demarcation was done in advance. I have requested the Director of Land Records, Assam, to impress upon the local officers the necessity of the advanced demarcation, and I hope, if this is done, the progress will be very much better than at present.

IV.—Instruments checking standard.

18. The procedure hitherto followed is faulty, as the surveyor has to go twice or thrice to the same standard to complete the work.

In future the Public Works Department will be asked to collect the necessary materials at the various places and a surveyor who can compute azimuths will be sent to make the necessary observations and have the pillars built in his presence and mark them finally before moving on to the next place.

V.—Miscellaneous work done.

19. The maps and records of 47 waste land grants surveyed by the Government approved surveyors were checked in the Traverse Party; the fees therefor, at sanctioned rates, amounting to Rs. 3,190 were deposited and credited to Government.

Several maps, comparative and others, were prepared and supplied to the Settlement Officers and other local officials.

VI.—Inspection of cadastral work.

20. I have not been able to inspect any cadastral work in the field during the year under report, but I had a meeting on the 22nd September 1913 with Mr. C. Gimson, I.C.S., Settlement Officer in charge, Dassanna experimental survey in district Sylhet.

The Settlement Officer explained to me in detail the system under which the work was done and I approved.

VII.—Programme for future years.

21. In paragraph 6 of the Local Administration's letter No. 4061R., dated the 6th September 1915, to the Government of India, proposing to hand over the Department temporarily to the Survey of India, it was stated that a definite programme of traverse work would be prepared in this probationary period. I have been in consultation with the Director of Land Records, Assam, regarding future programme for extension surveys in the province and the Director of Land Records has submitted a note on the subject and is obtaining further information which I asked for.

VIII.—Index map for the Annual Report.

22. Hitherto no index map illustrating the work done has been published with the Annual Reports, but I think this is very necessary and am taking steps to have a map prepared showing all previous surveys so far done in Assam by the Survey Department district by district.

IX.—Employment of trained Mandals for traversing extension surveys.

23. This is receiving my attention in connection with future programmes and proposal will be submitted in consultation with the Director of Land Records, Assam.

X.—Drawing Office.

24. This office was joint with Bengal from 1st October to 5th December 1915 when all the Bengal work except Dacca Cadastral sheets and a few miscellaneous maps was transferred to Calcutta. From that date we charged Bengal for their reproduction work at the normal rate of 25 pulls to a rupee; we recovered Rs. 11,656 for 291,412 maps printed for Bengal after the split.

The total number of maps printed during the year for Bengal and Assam was 400,520, out of which 350,365 were for Bengal and 50,155 for Assam (the detail of the latter is given below) against 732,656 for Bengal and 37,766 for Assam in the previous year.

The outturn of work, considering that only one Machine press was retained, compares favourably with that of previous year.

Cadastral maps.

District.	Number of sheets.	Copies.
Cachar	190	7,600
Goalpara	66	810
Kamrup	306	9,180
Nowgong	30	630
Sibsagar	144	4,320
Sylhet	194	4,137
Total	930	26,677

Jurisdiction maps.

Various districts	1,963

Triangulation charts.

Various districts	220

Miscellaneous maps.

Various districts	21,295
Grand total	50,155

The Reproduction Section staff for Bengal together with a Machine press and five hand presses, two graining machines, photo frames and plates, etc., were transferred

to Calcutta. One machine and one type press falling in Bengal share were retained in Assam and the price, Rs. 5,000, was paid during the last financial year.

XI.—Thana Map Section.

25. The following jurisdiction maps have been printed :—

	Copies.
Cachar, 3 thanas	458
Sylhet, 6 „	305
Kamrup, 1 circle	300
Darrang, 1 „	300

As the limits of police thanas do not coincide with the limits of circles, the Inspector General of Police has requested that the boundaries of police thanas with the names of the thanas be printed in a distinctive colour on the circle maps as is being done in Bengal owing to the boundaries of revenue circles and police thanas not being the same.

XII.—School maps.

26. District maps required by the Director of Public Instruction, Assam, were printed during the year.

The printing of the map of the Province could not be taken up for want of funds and has been postponed for the present.

XIII.—Standardized maps.

27. It has been decided not to give effect to this scheme at present under existing financial conditions.

District Officers have, however, been asked to obtain such maps as are absolutely necessary, some from the Provincial Survey Drawing office at Shillong and some from Map Record Issue Office, Calcutta, subject to the condition that funds are provided in their budget.

XIV.—Record Section.

28. Nine hundred twenty-seven trace maps were received and racked in the record-room.

XV.—Dhubri record-room.

29. The few remaining copies of old maps that were required to complete the survey records of the Goalpara Collectorate were supplied during the year under report.

XVI.—Survey Gazetteers.

30. The Goalpara Gazetteer, which was compiled by Major Hirst and made over to Mr. T. Shaw to complete one chapter, was eventually returned to me still incomplete on Mr. Shaw's death, as also the incomplete Survey Gazetteer for Sylhet.

The completion of these two Gazetteers, in curtailed form, has now been entrusted to Mr. Smart on payment of an honorarium for this extra labour and it is hoped that the work will be completed before close of the current financial year.

XVII.—Assam Land Surveying School.

31. Officers' training class was opened on the 22nd November 1915 when only one Sub-Deputy Collector joined. He was trained both in survey and settlement, as it was decided by the Local Administration that training in both should, if possible, be imparted at the school experimentally.

The Sub-Deputy Collector (Srijut Troilokeshwar Bhuyan) was examined by Mr. Smart in survey under my directions and by Rai Radha Kanta Handique Bahadur, Land Records Assistant, in the settlement under the directions of the Director of Land Records and he passed in both with credit. The result of the experiment, though satisfactory, was not reported to Government, as I wished to see the result with a larger number of officers. This year the number of officers is sufficient and I have directed the Principal to report to me any difficulty he finds in training the officers in settlement as well.

On the 2nd January 1916 the ordinary mandal class was opened when 52 candidates from the districts noted below were admitted:—

Garo Hills	1
Sylhet	2
Sibsagar	3
Manipur	3
Darrang	5
Goalpara	6
Nowgong	6
Kamrup	26
Total	52

There was an unfortunate incident at the school on the night of the 25th March 1916 when a number of students assaulted the Principal. An enquiry was held on the spot and 31 unruly students were expelled from 29th March 1916.

Two students had to leave the school owing to circumstances beyond their control and 18 actually appeared in the examination, out of which 13 came out successful.

Hitherto no clear rule appears to have been laid down for allotting marks, and I am putting forward proposals shortly on this point as well as regards duration of the course, etc.

Mr. Blackie, Private Secretary to the Raja of Manipur, and one Supervisor Kanungo from Assam Valley were also trained by the Principal in survey and settlement.

Some school buildings have been completed, while some still remain to be built but at present there is no chance of further work being undertaken for want of funds.

The drinking water supply is a matter of urgent necessity and Public Works Department is being addressed by me on the subject.

XVIII.—Inspections.

32. I inspected the work of Assam Traverse and Drawing office in Shillong as occasion arose and did not find it necessary to personally inspect traverse work in the field which is inspected periodically by Mr. Smart; and Mr. Gasper remains throughout in the field.

XIX.—Services of Officers.

33. Mr. Shaw's death on 24th March 1916 was a great loss to the Assam Survey Department.

Mr. A. B. Smart, Deputy Superintendent, in charge, Assam Traverse and Drawing office, has supervised the combined offices very efficiently and to my entire satisfaction, and considering that he had to acquire knowledge of local conditions, he deserves great credit for the work done.

Mr. B. C. Gasper, Extra Assistant Commissioner, is reported to have given every assistance to the officer in charge and to have worked very well.

Maulvi Talmizur Rahaman Chaudhury, Principal of the School, has performed his duties to the best of his abilities and quite satisfactorily as far as professional work is concerned, but his knowledge of office procedure and correspondence has proved to be indifferent and steps have been taken to relieve him of accounts work.

Pandit Mam Raj Sharma, my Head Clerk and Accountant, has devoted himself to his work since he joined Assam Surveys and has been of the greatest assistance to me.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

R. T. CRICHTON, *Lieut.-Colonel, I.A.*

Superintendent, Eastern Circle, Survey of India, in charge, Assam Surveys.

List of operations (1915-16).

Serial No.	District	Nature of work with brief description.	Present state of completion.	For Government or private agency.
1	2	3	4	5
1	Goalpara ...	Demarcation of Guma-Ghurla boundary, 8 linear miles.	Temporary demarcation completed.	Partly Government and partly private.
2	Ditto ...	Demarcation of Sidli, Ripu, Guma-Parbatjoar possession boundary, 34 linear miles.	Completed	Ditto ditto.
3	Ditto ...	Bijni; Sidli-Khuntaghat boundary. 98 linear miles.	37 miles temporarily demarcated.	Ditto ditto.
4	Ditto ...	Survey of Brahmaputra and Gadadhar rivers off Dhubri, area 55 square miles.	Completed, but this is a recurring job for another three years.	Government. (P.W.D.)
5	Ditto ...	Demarcation of III Sidli-Chirang boundary, 25 linear miles.	Traversing nearly completed	Ditto.
6	Ditto ...	Demarcation of boundary between Gola Alumganj, Noabadfaturi, Jamira, Kalumalupara and Chapar.	56 miles of traversing completed.	Private.
7	Goalpara and Garo Hills.	Re-demarcation of Bose's survey, 62 linear miles.	Re-survey completed ...	Government.
8	Kamrup ...	Pillar No. 81 of Bhutan-Kamrup boundary.	Missing pillar found ...	Ditto.
9	Ditto ...	Extension traverse for cadastral survey.	92 villages traversed. Area 151 square miles.	Ditto.
10	Darrang ...	Extention traverse for cadastral survey.	44 villages traversed. Area 84 square miles.	Ditto.
11	Sylhet ...	Patharia-Langla boundary ...	Survey and temporary demarcation completed; 20 linear miles.	Ditto.
12	Ditto ...	Patharia-Pratabgarh boundary	Pending. Thak boundary relaid on the ground; 30 linear miles.	Ditto.
13	Ditto ...	Instrument checking standards at Habiganj, Karimganj, Maulvi Bazar, Sudamganj and Sylhet.	Observations completed, and pillars, etc., erected. Pillars to be marked.	Ditto.
14	Ditto ...	Demarcation of Thak No. 1743	59 linear miles of traversing completed.	Ditto.

R. T. CRICHTON, *Lieut.-Colonel, I.A.,*
Superintendent Eastern Circle, Survey of India, in charge, Assam Surveys.

REPORT

ON THE

DEPARTMENT OF LAND RECORDS IN ASSAM

FOR THE

Year ending 30th September 1916.

PART I.—RESETTLEMENT.

Cachar.

1. The resettlement of Cachar district continued during the year. Mr. W. L. Scott was in charge for the whole period and the four Assistant Settlement Officers mentioned in last year's report, *viz.*, Babu Debendra Kumar Mukherjee, Babu Mahendra Kumar Dam, Babu Kamini Mohan Dutta and Maulvi Muhammad Ali, continued in their appointments. The subordinate staff was practically the same as in last year.

The programme for the year consisted of (*a*) the record attestation of the three remaining groups, Chatla, Banraj and Vernerpur, and, if possible, the submission of their assessment reports and completion of the final maps, *dagchithas* and *jamabandis*: (*b*) the preparation of assessment statements, submission of group reports, and completion of records of Katigora, Silchar and Hailakandi groups.

The field programme of record attestation was completed, but the programme of office work was not finished owing to unavoidable delay in the preparation of assessment statistics. The fairing out of the records of Katigora, Silchar and Hailakandi groups was started towards the close of the year. As the Chief Commissioner's sanction to the new rates for the first (Katigora) was not accorded pending the disposal of objections and the time necessary to consider the effects of the recent floods, the revenue attestation of the group has not been undertaken yet: unless orders are issued soon, we shall run the risk of keeping the staff idle and of seriously increasing the expense of the settlement: but of course the unfortunate coincidence of the floods cannot be ignored. The total number of villages in the three groups of Chatla, Banraj and Vernerpur, of which the record attestation was completed during the year, was 366. This excludes an area included in 27 sheets of tea garden grants which do not come under resettlement. Field work was undertaken by four attestation parties under the 4 Assistant Settlement Officers, began about the middle of November and was practically complete in April, when only one village remained to be done in Hailakandi. Enquiries into the condition of second-class fisheries and regarding land suitable for grazing grounds were made along with attestation. The reports on fisheries will be submitted soon after the completion of each group report; that on the fisheries in Katigora has been received since the close of the year and forwarded to the Local Administration.

New mutations recorded by the attesting Kanungoes in the parganas attested during the year were given effect to during attestation. The total number of mutations effected was 4,789 in Sadar and 2,386 in Hailakandi. It may be noted that new mutation work arising in the groups attested in the previous year has been postponed till the conclusion of the resettlement operations. If orders on re-assessment are not issued fairly soon, we could employ our staff in further bringing the record up to date, so as to hand over a clear slate to the Deputy Commissioner.

The assessment reports of two groups, Katigora and Hailakandi, were completed during the year and the preliminary sanction of the Local Administration to the rates of the former group has been accorded and communicated to the Settlement Officer. The Chief Commissioner's final sanction is awaited as remarked above. The Silchar group report is reported to be almost ready, while f the remaining groups, in spite of the heavy attestation corrections, the Settlement Officer hopes to be able to submit his last report by the end of the present calendar year.

The chief items of office work were the completion of the remaining papers of Chatla, Banraj and Vernerpur groups and the preparation of the assessment statistics for the remainder. The revenue calculation, field by field, of the Katigora group was completed by a special set of extra men on the "Job and Contract" system. This work was done under rules laid down in the Resettlement Manual: but as the time and expense required appeared to be out of proportion to the advantage accruing to the people, the Local Administration has ordered the Settlement Officer in the remaining groups to calculate the revenue patta by patta and not field by field.

No traverse work was done by professional parties, but the detailed survey of two tea-garden grants traversed before was completed during the year under report.

The final inking of the maps continues as in last year. Up to date 401 maps have been sent up to the Drawing office for reproduction, and vandyke prints of 78 sheets have been received by the Settlement Officer.

It is expected to bring the operations to a close by the end of December 1917, if the Chief Commissioner's sanction to the new rates is received early. The programme for 1916-17 consists of (*a*) submission of assessment reports of Silchar, Chatla, Banraj and Vernerpur groups, (*b*) revenue attestation of all the 6 groups, (*c*) completion of the final records and maps of all the groups, (*d*) distribution of the final pattas. It may be noted that in place of 5 groups mentioned in this Department report for the year ending 30th September 1914 the district has finally been divided into six groups as stated above.

I have much pleasure in recording my appreciation of the work of the Settlement Officer, Mr. Scott, and his assistants, more specially Babu Debendra Kumar Mukherji.

Sylhet.

(i) Jaintia Parganas.

2. Resettlement operations in the Jaintia Parganas of Sylhet were also in charge of Mr. W. L. Scott, with a staff of two permanent Assistant Settlement Officers. As help was required to complete the programme of field work in the cold weather, two extra Assistant Settlement Officers were appointed, Babu Ananda Behari Mitra, Sub-Deputy Collector, from the 12th November 1915 till 31st July 1916, and Maulvi Amanatali Khandkar from the 6th November 1915 to date. The subordinate staff was strengthened by the appointment of 15 extra Supervisor Kanungoes for certain periods in the cold weather.

During the year the Local Administration sanctioned the raising of the pay of the temporary patwari staff from Rs. 8 to Rs. 10 a month, and the grant of a temporary allowance during resettlement of Rs. 2 a month to the lowest grade patwaris on the permanent staff. This step has undoubtedly improved the attendance of patwaris.

Map revision and classification of the whole area having been completed, the programme for this year was the attestation of the record and the preparation of assessment statements and group reports. Owing to the heavy office work previous to attestation, the start in the field was delayed, and with the help of the two extra Assistant Settlement Officers the programme was ultimately completed by the end of May 1916. Consequently recess work began rather late and it has not been possible to complete any of the three group reports, Kanairghat, Gowainghat and Jaintiapur, within the year. The work of record attestation was much hampered by numerous partition and mutation cases and heavy objections. Appeals were presented in much greater numbers than in Cachar. The Settlement Officer, however, expects to submit his first group report, Gowainghat, soon after next Christmas. If this can be managed, it will be possible, provided orders are received in time, to do the revenue attestation of this group before the next rains. It will however be impossible to complete the group reports of Jaintiapur and Kanairghat in time, and their revenue attestation must perforce remain over till the following cold weather. It is hoped to complete the revenue attestation and final preparation of the records of the Gowainghat group in the year 1916-17: the assessment reports of Jaintiapur and Kanairghat will be submitted and all papers got ready for revenue attestation.

All Assistant Settlement Officers worked hard and their work was on the whole good. The subordinate staff are also reported to have done well.

Sylhet.

(ii) Dassana area.

The experimental settlement operations in the three permanently-settled parganas of Renga, Baraya and Dakhinkach in this district were as before in charge of Mr. C. Gimson. At the beginning of the field season there were two Assistant Settlement Officers, Maulvi Lutfar Rahman and Babu Srish Chandra De. In January Babu Upendra Krishna Chakravarty was temporarily appointed

as an additional Assistant Settlement Officer. With this staff the attestation of the whole area was begun early in December 1915 and completed before the middle of July. Mr. F. A. S. Thomas, I.C.S., under settlement training, gave considerable assistance in attestation in pargana Baraya during the later part of his period of training. The work in Dakhinkach was the most difficult and progress there was slower than elsewhere. The total number of new disputes instituted was 1,269, all of which were disposed of by the Assistant Settlement Officers.

By Notification No. 5335R., dated the 9th December 1915, the provisions of sections 103A, 103B, 105, 105A, 106, 107, 108, 108A, 109, 109A, 109B, 109C, 110, 111, 111A, 111B, and 147B of the Bengal Tenancy Act, in a slightly modified form to suit local conditions, were extended to this settlement; and rules under some of these sections, based on the Bengal rules, were published under Notification No. 2551R., dated the 26th July 1916. The number of objections under section 103A was 896, of which 893 were disposed of. Some objections were fresh disputes, but the majority were appeals against orders passed by Assistant Settlement Officers in previous disputes. In addition to the above, final janch work was done in 30 out of 92 mauzas and final inking was done in 8 out of 168 sheets. Kistwar partal, khanapuri partal and attestation janch work remain to be done in certain cases. The final recess work was begun in May last. The work consists of (*a*) a check of the class of land of each plot in the plot index (prepared in attestation janch camps) against the khasra (prepared last year by patwaris in field), (*b*) a check of north plot column of the khatian against the map, to see that the plot number and possessor's name are correctly entered, (*c*) a check of every khatian. This work is well in hand and the final copying of the record will begin shortly.

Mr. Gimson deserves credit for the excellent work done by him. His assistants have worked satisfactorily.

Other Settlement work.

3. Besides the regular settlement operations mentioned above, work in connection with the revision of classification in areas taken up since the last resettlement in the districts of Sibsagar and Kamrup was in progress during the year under report and entailed a very considerable addition to the work of the two district staffs. So far as I can judge, the revision has been done carefully. Extension surveys, covering 67 square miles in all, were carried out by local agency in the Assam Valley: this included in most cases the classification of the land on the Resettlement scheme and its re-assessment. The working off by the Survey Department of the large arrears of traverse which have accumulated will in the next few years give a great stimulus to extension surveys.

PART II.—Land Records.

Mandals and Patwaris.

4. One mandal in the 3rd grade being added in Nowgong during the year, the sanctioned number on the 30th September 1916 was 237 in the first, 699 in the second and 246 in the third grade. The number actually entertained fell below the sanctioned strength by 3, mainly on account of the difficulty of obtaining suitable local candidates to replace men dismissed for non-residence etc.

Considerable extensions of cultivation have taken place in Nowgong, particularly in Kampur circle, owing to the influx of settlers from Bengal and the Surma Valley, and the number of mandals there is reported to be quite incapable of coping with the wrk. The Deputy Commissioner has accordingly proposed the creation of 3 newo lots in that area and his proposal is now under consideration. It is considered that even this number, when sanctioned, will be insufficient and the Deputy Commissioner is considering the submission of further proposals for the appointment of 5 more mandals in this locality. I hope to go into this question on the spot in next month with the Deputy Commissioner.

Efforts continued to be made to replace non-resident mandals by qualified resident men in all districts and as the result thereof there are now 1,044 recorders who are resident or have been exempted by superior authority against 1,025 in the preceding year. A statement showing the actual number of resident and non-resident recorders in each district on the 30th September 1916, is given in Appendix G.

In all but Sylhet, Darrang and Lakhimpur the number of non-resident mandals have either diminished or remained unchanged. The increase of 2 men in Sylhet

is only apparent, being due to deputation of permanent men to Settlement as temporary Supervisor Kanungoes. The inclusion by the Subdivisional Officer, Mangaldai, under "non-resident" of such mandals as have sent their families away from their lots partially accounts for the increase in Darrang. In Lakhimpur non-resident mandals had to be appointed temporarily in some lots as vacancies occurred, for want of qualified local candidates. In Kamrup some vacancies caused by death and dismissals had, for want of really resident candidates, to be filled by candidates whose homes are within 2 miles of the limits of the lots. This explains the increase under exemptions with a decrease of actually resident recorders. During the year 6 candidates of lots where resident candidates are not available were granted free-studentships under rule 13A of the Land Records Manual in the Gauhati Survey School. I should like to add that in my opinion a little give and take in this matter would be better than hard and fast methods : there are areas where local candidates cannot be obtained, such as most Chapari mauzas and those inhabited by uneducated Aborigines. It is practically hopeless to expect respectable Hindus or Muhamadans to make their homes in the latter areas and all we can do is to wait until the light of the Education Department dissipates the gloom. I have come across cases where real hardship was caused to the individual and inefficiency resulted for Government by the dismissal of good mandals as non-residents in these lots and their eventual replacement by inferiors, also non-resident.

Supervisor Kanungoes.

5. No addition was made to the cadre of Supervisor Kanungoes for the province in the year under report. Since the close of the year one temporary additional Supervisor Kanungo has been sanctioned for one year for the plains portion of the Garo Hills, where the charge is too big for one man. The survey and resettlement of these mauzas are being taken up and will in all possibility require the retention of the services of the Supervisor Kanungo permanently or for a longer period.

General remarks on the work of the Land Records staff of the province will be found in paragraph 11.

Punishments.

6. During the year fines of Rs. 1,330-6-9 were imposed on 1,198 mandals and patwaris. Details district by district are given in the statement in the Appendix H. The average of the fines works out to Re. 1-1-11 against Rs. 2-0-0 in the preceding year and is the lowest for the last quinquennium, while the number of recorders punished was the largest for that period. The decrease under the head "delay in submitting papers," no doubt indicates improvement in punctuality.

Two Supervisor Kanungoes of Kamrup were fined Rs. 13 for bad work. The field allowance of one Supervisor Kanungo each in Darrang, Nowgong and Sibsagar was stopped.

Travelling allowance.

7. The travelling allowance drawn by Supervisor Kanungoes and recorders during the year amounted to Rs. 1,210-13-6 and Rs. 3,528-7-9, respectively. There has been a substantial decrease under the former head, while under the latter the increase was as marked. In the case of Kanungoes the decrease was most noticeable in Sylhet, Kamrup, Nowgong and Sibsagar. The increase in the case of recorders was largest in Kamrup due, it is reported, to the grant of halting allowance to the mandals of Gauhati circle who recessed at Gauhati and lived more than 5 miles away. The reason stated in paragraph 6 of the last report, *viz.*, that mandals are now allowed to draw travelling allowance for journeys to and from recess headquarters, generally explains the increase in the travelling allowance drawn by them. The Comptroller has recently ruled, in contravention of an arrangement accepted in 1910 by the Accountant General in Eastern Bengal and Assam, that recorders are no longer to be treated as menial servants and so are not to be allowed travelling allowance up to their actual expenses. The arrangement thus abrogated was made in order to put a stop to the increase in contingent expenditure for the carriage of records, which was not well checked in the district offices of the Surma Valley especially. The result of the new ruling, I am afraid, is that a heavy burden will be thrown on Deputy Commissioners' contingencies or, in the alternative, that the recorders will be compelled to pay for the carriage of our papers out of their own pockets. I have asked the Deputy Commissioners through the Commissioners to consider and report on the effect of the new orders.

Sub-Deputy Collectors.

8. The work done by the Sub-Deputy Collectors in charge of Land Records is briefly shown in Appendix B. A comparison of this statement with that of the previous year will show that on the whole there has been further improvement in the state of the records.

The inspections made by various officers has brought out the fact that in majority of the circles the Sub-Deputy Collectors in charge displayed energy and activity. There are, however, cases in which the Circle Officers did not sufficiently realise the importance of their work and therefore failed to exercise effective supervision. Special bad work has been reported through the usual channels for the information of the Chief Commissioner. The transfers of officers in charge of Land Records circles were somewhat more numerous than in the previous year. The injury to Land Records resulting from frequent transfers of Circle Officers cannot be overestimated and it is hoped that such transfers will be avoided, unless required by the most special and unavoidable circumstances. Officers who deserve special credit for their work are Babu Pramode Chandra Sen Gupta of Nalbari, of whom the Deputy Commissioner, Kamrup, speaks most highly and I can add my personal testimony, Srijuts Kamal Chandra Kagti and Tarini Charan Chowdhuri amongst the seniors, while Maulvis Nasib Ali Mazumdar and Saiyid Sheikhul Moshaik Chisti amongst the juniors are marked as specially promising. The promotion of one officer was stopped temporarily and I notice that one unsatisfactory officer has been relegated to less important duties. In the Surma Valley Babu Biraja Kanta Ghosh continues to deserve commendation.

Progress of survey.

9. Appendices C & D show the progress of survey in each plains district and the plains portion of the Garo Hills up to the close of the year under review. Figures for the Central and Eastern Sections of the North-East Frontier are not yet available. Figures in columns 2 and 7 of Statement D will show that cadastral survey and preparation of the records were completed on the 30th September 1916 in respect of 26·90 per cent. of the area against 26·86 per cent. last year. The most important areas outstanding now are the permanently-settled portions of Sylhet and Goalpara, a small area of the former of which is being surveyed experimentally. The total area of the province, as often explained, includes large stretches of waste land for which detailed maps and records-of-rights are not necessary. Extension surveys were carried out in all districts except Cachar, Darrang and Lakhimpur, the total area surveyed being 67 square miles. The area surveyed in no district was particularly large, the largest being that of 25 square miles in Sidli Duar of Goalpara: this survey was in addition to the ordinary work: the re-survey of 3 villages in Bijni resulted in an increase of Rs. 800 in annual revenue. Kamrup came next with an area of 22 square miles: this was part of the area traversed by the professional Survey Party in 1914-15. An area of about 121 square miles was traversed in 1915-16, but the Land Records staff being engaged in the work of reclassification of the areas taken up after the last resettlement, the detailed survey of this area had to be postponed till the next field season. According to the arrangements referred to in the concluding portion of paragraph 8 of the last report the Survey Department carried out last season the theodolite traverse of a large portion of the arrears in Kamrup and Darrang and will proceed with the balance next season, besides taking up an area of about 11 square miles in Sibsagar. It is hoped that the arrears of traverse will be worked out in 3 or 4 years and at the end of that period it is intended to use for traverse in the field mandals trained to use the theodolite, in order to save the great expense of traversing scattered bits by a staff moving over the province. The exact form of remuneration to be given to these trained mandals will be decided in the near future.

In addition to these surveys and their ordinary work the Land Records establishments of Kamrup and Sibsagar undertook the very important work of reclassifying the lands taken up for cultivation since the close of the last resettlements of these districts. The rates of revenue on these lands were liable to revision after the first 10 years of the settlement period under the orders of the Government of India conveyed in Mr. Wilson's letter No. 632—155-2, dated the 28th April 1905. This work was under the general supervision of my Land Records Assistant, who devoted special attention to Sibsagar, while Srijut Hem. Chandra Goswami, Extra Assistant Commissioner, exercised supervising powers in Kamrup. A very considerable amount of care has been used in Kamrup, where I am now inspecting the results, and, I am given to understand, in Sibsagar also. So far as Kamrup is concerned I can testify that the work was excellently carried out. The calculation of revenue to allow for progressive enhancement added enormously to the amount of detail to be gone through. In both districts the staff deserve special rewards, especially as the increase in revenue is likely in Kamrup, at least, to be considerable.

Maintenance of records.

10. The records were, as usual, maintained by the Land Records staff. Appendix E gives statistics of the mutations effected during the year. The percentage of mutations effected to

the total number of pattas has fallen off very considerably in the Surma Valley as compared with last year, mainly because the settlement field work in Cachar was completed; in Sylhet the figures are exclusive of the mutations effected by the settlement staff in the Jaintia Parganas. In the Brahmaputra Valley, however, there has been no large fluctuation. It is satisfactory to note that the general tendency has been towards decrease of mutations by the regular procedure. In Lakhimpur there has been substantial increase in the mutations by the summary procedure.

I have received no general report as to what extent Mauzadars exercised their powers to effect mutations locally in uncontested cases, but in Lakhimpur a large number of such mutations are reported to have been disposed of by them. I would suggest for the Chief Commissioner's approval that the number of mutations of pattas done by Sub-Deputy Collectors and Mauzadars respectively should in future be shown in column 4 of Appendix E in the Assam Valley Districts: the figures already exist in the Supervisor Kanungos' returns and will give no trouble to compile. We shall then see what is being actually done. I must say that in the few circles I have just seen, I have been surprised at the large number done by some of the educated Mauzadars, but in the backward areas nothing is done.

I wish also to draw attention to Mr. Edwards' remarks in paragraph 9 of last year's report on the undesirability of Mauzadars' effecting mutations at their homes instead of in the villages. In Kamrup I have heard in a fortnight quite a number of complaints of this kind: it may be said that the Land Records staff is prejudiced against Mauzadars on this point and inclined to exaggerate, but I had it from others as well.

State of Land Records.

11. Mr. Edwards inspected the work of the Land Records staff both in field and in office in all the circles of Sibsagar and Lakhimpur as well as in the two circles of Tezpur subdivision. Besides his inspection of the three settlements in progress in the Surma Valley, he inspected the *Ilam* work in North Sylhet, Karimganj, South Sylhet and Habiganj. He found a steady improvement in most circles, but a good deal of leeway to be made up in Nazira, Sibsagar, Behali, Dibrugarh, Tinsukia and Subansiri circles: the greater part of this still unsatisfactory state of affairs is due to past neglect and the present Circle Officers on the whole are trying to raise the standard to the normal; but this requires time and unity of supervision and hence argues against frequent transfers of Circle Officers without grave cause, especially from these backward circles. What is wanted is a thorough consecutive check of all the records without a break in the continuity of supervision for at least two to three years. This was noted by Mr. Edwards last year and deserves repetition.

In paragraph 4 of the Resolution in last year's report the Chief Commissioner expressed regret that I should have been unable in 1914-15 to inspect Land Records in Lakhimpur and Sibsagar and that I visited only one circle in Nowgong: I inspected in the field 7 circles in Kamrup, three in Darrang, a new circle in Nowgong at the request of the Commissioner and the Pratabgarh circle in Karimganj. Mr. Edwards in last year inspected the balance (Lakhimpur, Sibsagar and Behali as well as Tezpur in Darrang). It is a sheer impossibility in my opinion to do more than half the districts in one field season, if work is to be properly inspected: the roster experience has made for us apart from inspection of settlements, is Lower Assam (Goalpara, Kamrup, Nowgong, Mangaldai) one year and the balance of the Assam Valley Districts in the next, while Sylhet and Cachar should also be done once in two years: there are eight circles now in Kamrup and to give them three days each, including travelling from one to another, takes 24 days: to get to Mangaldai or Nowgong will make up the balance of the month and these two take at least another month, *i e.*, two months on purely Land Records work. I inspected in 1914-15 settlements in the field in Goalpara (Eastern Duars), right through the whole of the Jaintia Parganas, in Cachar and in detail in the *Dassana* area in Sylhet and spent certainly not less than two months thus. Besides this I had considerable inspection in connection with Agriculture, particularly at the Kamrup Sugarcane Farm, where we were choosing a new site, starting work with the steam tackle and received a visit from the Imperial Sugar-breeding Expert: this certainly took me not less than one month. So the total comes to 4½ months' continuous touring in the field season, allowing for the omission in Nowgong, except for the break at Christmas. I do not think that the Chief Commissioner would expect any one to do more in the time, if he knew the facts. But I understand that our present method of inspection is compared with that of the Lineties, when there was no elaborate system of land classification or method of maintaining the record, when even the cadastral survey was done by the Survey Department and not by the Land Records staff, and when the Agricultural Department's existence appeared only in the title of the Director, experimental harvest-

ings and a few inadequate trade statistics. I have examined the past reports and find that in the early nineties, when the maps done by the Survey Department were being handed over to the Land Records staff and the latter were being instructed in the rules for keeping them, about 750 out of 1,000 mandals were seen for two years in succession by the Director, who assembled them in large groups at a rest-house and saw the field work of one or two at the outside on the same day. But the number soon dropped to 450 and then to 250 and even this small number was inspected on the same method. It would be possible to do the work now on the same principle and to emulate the example of the early nineties by visiting every district every year, but with our present elaborate system a field check is the only possible one : this view has been held not only by the Board of Revenue in Eastern Bengal and Assam but by the Chief Commissioner, who in paragraph 6 of the Resolution on our first report (1911-12) in reconstituted Assam laid particular emphasis on the unsatisfactory condition into which Land Records work had lapsed and pointed to the remedies : subsequent Resolutions did not alter the latter. I hope that I shall be excused for dilating at length on this point, because I feel that an undeserved reproach has been unintentionally cast upon Mr. Edwards and myself in a published Resolution, and I hope that the Chief Commissioner will remove the impression that may have been made on the public.

I add here as usual a precis of my Land Records Assistant's inspection notes :—

I was in charge throughout the whole year and spent 252 days on tour. A large proportion of my time during the year had to be devoted to inspecting and issuing instructions in connection with the reclassification of the post resettlement lands in Sibsagar and Kamrup. I was helped in this work by Srijut Hem Chandra Gossain, Extra Assistant Commissioner, who supervised the work in the Kamrup district in addition to his other duties.

I inspected the Land Records work of 368 mandals distributed in 26 sub-circles, 15 circles and six districts and ran 24·30 miles of check lines. The results of my inspections are recorded in detail for each sub-circle and reported for orders on the conclusion of each inspection. A summary of the inspection reports is given below, from which it will be seen that as a result of the criticism of the previous years, the majority of the circles show gradual improvement. It is only in those circles where no whole-hearted attempts were made to turn bad work into good that matters stand in as unsatisfactory state as ever.

Dibrugarh Circle in charge of Maulvi Mahamed Fazlur Rahman:—

Lakhimpur. Much improvement was noticed in the condition of the records, but there was still room for further improvement. The prescribed percentage of the *jotrahin* and *faut ferar dags* had not been tested by the former Sub-Deputy Collector.

Golaghat Circle in charge of Maulvi Mahamed Rasheed:—

Sibsagar. Barring a number of mistakes which were discovered by me the records, on the whole, were found in fairly satisfactory condition. Mutation work appeared to be well up to date and proper attention was paid to the maintenance of the survey marks.

Kamargaon Circle in charge of Srijut Surendranath Gohain :—

The records on the whole were found in a fairly satisfactory condition. The field work of the mandals required more testing as I discovered survey mistakes in certain villages.

Nazira Circle in charge of Srijut Khageswar Baruah :—

Much improvement was noticed in the condition of the records though there was room for further improvement. The maintenance of survey marks was neglected in several lots. Mutation work appeared to have been kept well up to date.

Sibsagar Circle in charge of Maulvi Muhibuddin Ahmed:—

The records had been carefully checked after my previous inspection and marked improvement in their condition was noticed.

Mangaldai Circle in charge of Srijut Ramananda Chowdhuri:—

Darrang. The records of Mangaldai sub-circle having been carefully checked, as suggested at my previous inspection, were found in much better condition, but no proper action appeared to have been taken to improve the condition of those of Pathuraghat sub-circle, where the state of things was very unsatisfactory. The Supervisor Kanungo very much neglected his duties. The results of reading out the *jamabandis* in the villages showed that proper steps had not been taken to record the names of the unregistered *dakhalkars*.

Kalaigaon Circle in charge of Srijut Premadhar Gohain :—

The records of the Bengbari sub-circle were found in fairly good condition, but those of the Kalaigaon sub-circle were in need of further improvement. The *jotrahin* and *faut ferar dags* had not been sufficiently tested by the former Sub-Deputy Collector.

Roha Circle in charge of Maulvi Anwar Hussain :—

Nowgong. The records showed marked improvement in their condition, but they were not yet quite free from mistakes. Due attention was paid to the maintenance of the survey marks.

Kampur Circle in charge of Maulvi Habibur Rahman :—

With the exception of a number of mistakes which I discovered, the records on the whole were found in much better condition than before. The survey marks which I saw were in satisfactory condition.

Samaguri Circle in charge of Srijut Umacharan Gohain :—

I inspected the work of only a few mandals and found nothing particularly bad in their work. Survey marks appeared to have received proper attention.

Gauhati Circle in charge of Srijut Kamal Chandra Kakati :—

Kamrup.

No appreciable improvement was noticed in the condition of the records. Though mistakes were found and pointed out year after year, no proper steps were taken to remove them. It was reported that the records were checked in accordance with instructions left by me at previous inspections. But evidently the work was done in a very careless manner, as I again discovered a large number of mistakes. A number of villages were surveyed in extension during the year and this work was done in a satisfactory manner.

Chhaygaon Circle in charge of Maulvi Nasib Ali Mazumdar :—

The records of the Chayygaon sub-circle showed some improvement, but those of the Boko sub-circle were found in as bad a condition as before. Orders had been issued to have the records checked, but they did not appear to have been carried out properly. The survey and classification carried out in the extension villages during the year appeared to have been done carefully.

Bojali Circle in charge of Srijut Achyutananda Patak :—

The records were found in much better condition than what I saw at previous inspections, but there was still much room for further improvement, as rather a large number of mistakes were again discovered by me.

Barpeta Circle in charge of Babu Binode Behari Rai Barman :—

Many mistakes were again discovered in the records. The supervision exercised by the Sub-Deputy Collector was not very efficient and he had not tested the *jotrahin dags* at all nor the prescribed percentage of the *faut ferar dags*.

Rangia Circle in charge of Srijut Umanath Gohain :—

The mistakes pointed out at my previous inspection had been rectified and the records on the whole were found in much better condition.

Garo Hills.

Land Records work was found to have been much neglected by the Supervisor Kanungo. The lot of one mandal when I discovered some unassessed land had not at all been visited by him for more than one year. No attention was paid to the maintenance of the survey marks. Strict supervision over the Supervisor Kanungo's work is necessary.

Inspection of Land Records work by the District Staff.

12. It is gratifying to notice that the check of Land Records by District Officers has further improved during the year in the Assam Valley Districts. There has been marked progress in all districts of the valley and all the Deputy Commissioners appear to have paid a good deal of attention in this direction. While the work of all the officers was very satisfactory, Mr. Clarke, Colonel Playfair, Mr. Beutinck, Mr. Laine and Mr. Dawson may be specially mentioned for their continued and extensive supervision. In the Surma Valley, as Cachar is under resettlement, check by the District staff is not required, while the Deputy Commissioner, Sylhet, was unable to spare time to inspect Land Records work in the *Ilam* area : the Jaintia Parganas are under resettlement.

Of Subdivisional Officers Mr. Walker of Mangaldai did a considerable amount of check, while those in Sibsagar, Golaghat and North Lakhimpur also showed some energy which might have been increased, but nothing appears to have been done by the Subdivisional Officer of Barpeta. All the Subdivisional Officers of Sylhet are said to have done some Land Records work this year, but it is not very clear to what extent and I would suggest that in future they be directed to report clearly what the exact nature of their check has been.

Survey marks.

13. Appendix F contains the results of the inspection of survey marks in the province. Notwithstanding the special attention paid to the verification and correction of these figures, as noticed in paragraph 12 of the last report, there have been some rather large variations in the total figures reported for this year. The main reasons to which these are attributed are summarised below :—

(1) Non-receipt of figure from the Jaintia Parganas in Sylhet which are under resettlement : this should be rectified in the present year.

(2) Revision of figures in some cases as results of further enquiry.

(3) Recovery in Kamrup of some marks lost during the earthquake.

(4) Erection of survey marks on the boundaries of grazing reserves and extension survey villages.

(5) Erection of new marks in the areas traversed by the Survey Department during the year under report.

It is satisfactory to find that the number of marks repaired has increased, while there has been a slight decrease in the number not repaired. The number lost or left unvisited is again very large and the percentage of those visited, but not repaired, is also high. In some districts, *e.g.*, Kamrup, the former is attributed to the loss of marks in jungle or washed away by rivers, but no reasons have been furnished for the latter. Special enquiries will be made with a view to ascertain the cause.

PART III.—MISCELLANEOUS.

Changes and reforms.

14. The year was not rich in the matter of reforms of importance or interest. The revised edition of the Land Records Manual referred to in paragraph 13 of the last report was returned for discussion and criticism by the Commissioners of both the Valleys. These officers have been addressed on the subject and the opinion of the Commissioner, Assam Valley Districts, is awaited. Consideration of various questions, such as the introduction of certain sections of the Bengal Tenancy Act (Act VIII of 1885) and rules, in connection with the survey and settlement in the experimental *Dassana* area of Sylhet occupied a very large portion of Mr. Edwards' attention.

Revised rules for the settlement of new lands under section 12 of the Assam Land and Revenue Regulation (Regulation I of 1886) to supersede rules 32-95 at pages 70-96 of the Land Revenue Manual were framed and published with Notification No. 2921R., dated the 26th August 1916, under the cover of the Resolution No. 2905R., dated the same date.

The proposals for the improvement of the Sub-Deputy Collectors' quarters referred to in the preceding report are still under consideration of the Local Administration.

Settlement training.

15. The training of officers in both survey and settlement has been transferred to the Officer in charge of Surveys in Assam under Local Administration order conveyed in Chief Secretary's letter No. 4561-A., dated the 10th June 1915. No officer was therefore trained under this Department during the year.

Charges and tour.

16. Mr. Edwards held charge of the Department for the whole year except for 11 days from the 18th to 30th September 1916, during which Mr. W. L. Scott, Settlement Officer, Cachar and Jaintia, was in charge in addition to his duties. I assumed charge after the close of the year on the forenoon of the 29th October 1916. Mr. Edwards spent 180 days on tour. His inspections have already been referred to.

Rai Radha Kanta Handiqui Bahadur continued to do very good work as Land Records Assistant. As I understand that the Rai Bahadur will take leave preparatory to retirement in the coming year, I take this opprotunity of testifying to the good work he has done since 1905 as Land Records Assistant to the Director : his retirement will be a loss to the Department and the severance of a long and worthy connection with Assam Land Records. My Personal Assistant Babu Chandra Nath Sarma has as usual been very efficient in the discharge of his duties.

J. McSWINEY,

Camp Nalbari,
The 5th December 1916.

Director of Land Records and Agriculture, Assam.

APPENDIX A(*i*).

Progress of resettlement work in Assam, during the year ending on 30th September 1916.

Name of district.	Number of villages.										Expenditure during the year.
	Correction of maps and records.		Soil classification.		Record attestation.		Revenue attestation.		Submission of rate reports.		
	Programme.	Work done.	Programme.	Work done.	Programme.	Work done.	Programme.	Work done.	Programme.	Work done.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
CACHAR	...	...	...	...	366	366	181	...	1,042	354	.....
SYLHET (Jaintia Parganas)	...	...	...	...	706	706	...	...	...	...	.....

APPENDIX A(*ii*).

Statement showing the progress of the settlement operations of the experimental area in the district of Sylhet for the year ending the 30th September 1916.

Name of district.	Branch of work.																			
	Kistwar.		Khanapuri.		Disputes.		Kistwar partal.		Khanapuri partal.		Attestation.		Attestation Janch.		Objection under section 103A. of the B. T. Act.		Final Janch.		Final inking of sheets.	
	Acres.		Plots (dags).				Chains.		Dags.		Interests.		Interests.				Mauzas.			
	Programme.	Done.	Programme.	Done.	Instituted.	Decided.	Required No. of partal.	Done.	Required No. of partal.	Done.	Programme.	Done.	Programme.	Done.	Instituted.	Decided.	Programme.	Done.	Programme.	Done.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
SYLHET. (Experimental Dassana Area) ...	421·50	421·50	1,054	1,054	1,209	1,209	210·75	150·05	305	283	51,364	51,364	51,364	45,770	896	893	92	80	168	8

APPENDIX B.

Work statement of Sub-Deputy Collectors for the year ending 30th September 1916.

Name of Circle or Subdivision.	Name of Sub-Deputy Collector.	Number of mandals or patwaris in the circle.	Number of mandals or patwaris whose papers were checked.	Number of villages in the circle.	Number of villages visited.	Number of check lines run.	Total length of check lines run.	Number of *chitha* entries tested.	Number of *chitha* entries found incorrect.	Number of theodolite station marks inspected.	Number of mutation and partition cases effected on the spot.	Number of mutation cases done in the office.	Name of Kanungo.	Character of each Kanungo's work during the year.	Remarks.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
							Miles.								
CACHAR ...	.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	.....	.....	District under resettlement.
SYLHET.															
Sylhet Sadar ...	Babu Biraja Kanta Rai Dastidar.	3	3	461	96	...	...	88	4	165	...	...	Chandra Kumar Basu...	Good.	
Karimganj ...	„ Biraja Kanta Ghosh...	4	4	347	106	32	4·43	579	1	94	153	20	Padma Lochan Das ...	Good.	
Patharkandi ...	Maulvi Mushrafulla ...	6	6	208	119	25	4·71	553	89	116	1,186	18	Gopal Chandra Chatterjee.	Good.	
Sunamganj ...	Babu Dinesh Chandra De Purkaistha.	3	3	166	9	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	Golock Chandra Kar ...	.....	
South Sylhet ...	„ Surendra Nath Chaudhuri.	5	5	929	93	13	2·27	456	...	187	...	...	Hridoy Chandra Ghosh	Good	Five villages were added as a result of the new extension survey.
Habiganj ...	Maulvi Dirajddin Ahmad ...	2	2	204	77	24	3·26	115	9	40	...	...	Janaki Nath De ...	Fair.	

GOALPARA.																
Eastern Duars ...	Maulvi Md. Abdul Rasheed ...	41	...	614	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Ratiram Das ...	Tolerable.		
	„ „ Muhibulla ...		12		13	...	5·03	49	...	5	...	...	Jatraram Das ...			
													Broja Mohan Das ...			
	Babu Krishna Behari Chowdhury.		35		157	...	42·48	984	13	223	214	23	Kamalnath Das ...			
KAMRUP.																
Gauhati ...	Srijut Kamal Chandra Kagti	38	37	303	194	28	12·57	14,873	307	320	483	62	Kayaram Talukdar ...	Did very satisfactory work.		
													Dhaniram Das ...	Did not work well.		
Chhaigaon ...	Maulvi Nasib Ali Majumdar up to 6th June 1916.	45	45	393	261	48	20·20	3,668	69	...	767	24	Sarat Chandra Chaudhury.	Worked hard.		
	Srijut Jagannath Bujar Barua up to the close of the year.		22		88	...	...	3,500	355	41	263	46	Sibram Das ...	Could not do well for ill health.		
Kamalpur ...	Srijut Tarini Charan Chaudhury.	40	40	292	277	18	8·43	1,031	14	164	709	120	Jagannath Deka ...	Satisfactory.		
													Pitambar Das ...			
Bangiya ...	„ Uma Nath Gohain	46	46	324	324	33	13·76	2,140	49	279	411	96	Rupram Choudhury ...	Good.		
													Bhogirath Das ...			
Northern Nalbari	Srijut Hari Prasad Das from 11th February to the end.	27	27	136	136	31	...	16,480	920	392	308	107	Purnananda Chaudhury	Satisfactory.		
	Babu Promode Chandra Sen Gupta, up to 11th February.		19		57	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Ugranath Sarma ...	Did well.		
Southern Nalbari ...	Babu Promode Chandra Sen Gupta.	32	32	210	210	17	8·43	17,213	304	507	130	128	Durgaram Dutta ...	Worked well	...	Mauzadars did good deal of mutation work.
													Dhaturam Tahsildar ...			
Barpeta ...	Babu Binode Behari Rai Barman.	20	20	257	152	46	...	3,895	86	180	75	17	Gangaram Das ...	Good.		
Bojali ...	Srijut Achyutananda Pathak	52	52	387	378	79	31·97	8,287	158	914	1,160	92	Moniram Das ...	Satisfactory.		
													Sitaram Das ...			
													Kamaleswar Das (Offg.)	Tolerably well.		

APPENDIX B—*contd.*

Work statement of Sub-Deputy Collectors for the year ending 30th September 1916.

Name of Circle or Subdivision.	Name of Sub-Deputy Collector.	Number of mandals or patwaris in the circle.	Number of mandals or patwaris whose papers were checked.	Number of villages in the circle.	Number of villages visited.	Number of check lines run.	Total length of check lines run.	Number of *chitha* entries tested.	Number of *chitha* entries found incorrect.	Number of theodolite station marks inspected.	Number of mutation and partition cases effected on the spot.	Number of mutation cases done in the office.	Name of Kanungo.	Character of each Kanungo's work during the year.	Remarks.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
KAMRUP—*concld.*															
DARRANG.							Miles								
Tezpur ...	Srijut Tarini Charan Sarma	30	30	264	264	22	7·48	5,966	84	453	499	95	Fultungram Das ...	On the whole satisfactory.	
													Ratikanta Saikia ...		
Behali	„ Bepin Chandra Bordalai.	31	31	311	211	20	10·19	2,599	26	128	346	57	Sarbeswar Bhagavati...	Not satisfactory.	
													Jogeswar Hazarika ...	Very satisfactory.	
Mangaldai ...	„ Uma Charan Gohain ...	43	11	352	20	...	...	28	...	3	...	12	Moniram Saikia ...	Experienced ...	Sub-Deputy Collector Srijut Premadhar Gohain was also in charge of this circle in addition to his own for ten days from 1st to 10th December 1916.
	„ Ramananda Chowdhury		43		288	31	13·86	2,771	131	251	661	88	Jagat Chandra Saharia	Efficient.	
Kalaigaon ...	„ Premadhar Gohain ...	42	42	569	362	43	14·8	4,975	157	275	258	10	Nomal Chandra Saharia	Satisfactory.	
													Rupram Das ...		
NOWGONG.															
Dhing ...	„ Bholanath Kakati ...	52	52	445	352	96	3·6	1,973	18	493	210	42	Chandra Kanta Bhuyan	Did good work.	
													Surat Chandra Bora ...		
													Bisen Sing ...		
Samaguri ...	„ Uma Charan Gohain ...	35	32	344	156	21	8·12	1,666	200	205	169	32	Jovinda Chandra Saikia	Satisfactory.	
	„ Jagannath Bujar Barua		33		198	26	8·92	1,562	139	298	385	26	Hemaram Hazarika ...	Fair.	

Roha	Maulvi Muhammad Anwar Hosain.	58	58	474	298	111	44·02	2,840	65	709	578	64	Dinanath Sarma ...	Satisfactory.		
													Durgaram Das ...			
													Kinaram Sarma ...	Not satisfactory.		
Kampur ...	„ Habibur Rahman ...	27	27	236	172	58	23·02	2,194	26	112	556	39	Bhagirath Laskar ...	Satisfactory.		
													Srinath Bora ...			
SIBSAGAR.																
Jorhat 1st Circle (Jorhat).	Babu Srish Kumar Sen ...	29	29	249	175	40	14·00	5,344	14	570	427	246	Mohiram Das ...	Fair.		
	Babu Harkumar Das from 1st October 1915 to 26th October 1915.		4		9	...	...	...	...	...	27	14	Sibnath Sarma ...			
Jorhat 2nd Circle (Khargia).	Srijut Dovananda Bharali from 16th February 1916 to 30th September 1916.	11	11	107	92	11	3·5	2,225	111	235	735	69	Kinaram Das ...	Satisfactory.		
	Babu Srish Kumar Sen from 28th October 1915 to 15th February 1916.		9		35	...	...	2,737	14	87	23	...				
Moriani ...	Babu Harkumar Das from 27th October 1915 to 30th September 1916.	37	37	360	235	105	32·11	4,268	224	1,358	547	159	Parsuram Barthakur...	Fair.		
	Babu Srish Kumar Sen from 1st October 1915 to 26th October 1915.		...		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	556	Mohan Chandra Sarma			
Sibsagar ...	Maulvi Mahibuddin Ahmed	38	38	357	343	22	10·66	21,348	174	853	2,536	520	Umeswar Sarma ...	Fairly satisfactory.		
													Tarun Chandra Sarma	Satisfactory.		
Nazira ...	Srijut Khogeswar Barua ...	38	38	360	240	96	29·83	8,070	187	415	1,218	370	Gobinda Nath Rai Chaudhury.	Satisfactory.		
													Amritram Dutta ...	Not Satisfactory.		
Golaghat ...	Babu Krishna Behari Chaudhury.	40	34	328	117	25	7·02	3,051	...	184	1,668	34	Mohiram Barua ...	Did fairly well ...	Maulvi Muhammad Muhibulla, Sub-Deputy Collector, held charge of the circle for a few days only, i.e., from 21st to 25th September 1916.	
	Maulvi Abdur Rashid ...		40		309	168	3·04	8,198	3·4	470	119	104	Bhakatram Das ...			
Kamargaon ...	Srijut Surendra Nath Gohain	17	17	192	151	37	17·22	6,404	240	484	436	80	Mohiram Dutta ...	Satisfactory.		

APPENDIX B—*concld.*

Work statement of Sub-Deputy Collectors for the year ending 30th September 1916.

Name of Circle or Subdivision.	Name of Sub-Deputy Collector.	Number of mandals or patwaris in the circle.	Number of mandals or patwaris whose papers were checked.	Number of villages in the circle.	Number of villages visited.	Number of check lines run.	Total length of check lines run.	Number of *chitha* entries tested.	Number of *chitha* entries found incorrect.	Number of theodolite station marks inspected.	Number of mutation and partition cases effected on the spot.	Number of mutation cases done in the office.	Name of Kanungo.	Character of each Kanungo's work during the year.	Remarks.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
LAKHIMPUR.							Miles.								
Dibrugarh ...	Babu Tara Charan Desamukhya.	30	25	305	106	4	1·62	2,709	31	170	287	22	Jatiram Das ...	Satisfactory.	
	Maulvi Fazlur Rahman ...		30		196	21	8·48	2,329	72	225	585	13	Pabit Chandra Das ...		
Tengakhat ...	Maulvi Fazlur Rahman ...	34	24	564	186	13	4·31	10·23	51	151	...	...			
	Babu Tara Charan Desamukhya.		13		69	9	3·3	1,537	29	129	443	11	Dinanath Gogoi ...	Fair.	
	Srijut Trailukyaswar Bhuyan		17		24	1	...	...	...	22	1	11	Dimbeswar Gogoi ...		
	„ Annada Charan Bhattacharjee.		1		4	...	...	10	...	4	...	...			
Tinsukia ...	Maulvi Syed Sheikhul Mosheik Chisti.	27	27	250	234	14	3·3	2,609	70	270	407	55	Gopal Chandra Rajkhoa	Fairly well.	
													Lakheswar Das ...	Not satisfactory.	
Banganadi ...	Srijut Rameswar Saikia ...	20	20	270	270	67	20·5	4,058	75	580	494	50	Mohiram Das ...	Worked well.	
Subansiri ...	Maulvi Nural Hussein Hazarika.	16	16	211	211	81	27·25	4,069	82	558	438	12	Sibnath Deka ...	Good.	
	Maulvi Nasib Ali Majumdar...		...		22	...	...	...	...	53	113	...			

APPENDIX C.

[*" Permanently-settled" in this table includes " revenue free."*]

District.	Classification of district area (square miles).			Area for which a cadastral survey and record-of-rights are completed (square miles).			Area for which a cadastral survey and record-of-rights were being prepared in 1915-16 (square miles).			Area outstanding (square miles).			Remarks.
	Permanently-settled.	Not permanently-settled.	Total.	Permanently-settled.	Not permanently-settled.	Total.	Permanently-settled.	Not permanently-settled.	Total.	Permanently-settled.	Not permanently-settled.	Total.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Cachar	3	3,766	3,769	3	1,062	1,065	...	...	...	...	2,704	2,704	
Sylhet	3,825	1,555	5,380	...	849	849	106	307	413	3,719	399	4,118	
Goalpara	2,528	1,433	3,961	...	534	534	...	...	...	2,528	899	3,427	
Kamrup	53	3,805	3,858	53	2,255	2,308	...	...	...	...	1,550	1,550	
Darrang	8	3,398	3,406	8	1,166*	1,174	...	...	...	...	2,224	2,224	*Revised figures.
Nowgong	4	3,800	3,804	4	1,151	1,155	...	...	...	...	2,649	2,649	
Sibsagar	62	4,934	4,996	62	1,823	1,885	...	...	...	...	3,111	3,111	
Lakhimpur	3	3,977	3,980	3	728	731	...	...	...	...	3,249	3,249	
Garo Hills	...	3,140	3,140	...	62	62	...	...	...	...	3,078	3,078	
Total	6,486	29,808	36,294	133	9,630	9,763	106	307	413	6,247	19,863	26,110	

APPENDIX D.

Progress of Extension Surveys for the year ending 30th September 1916.

Name of district.	Total area of district (square miles).	Area surveyed by professional party (square miles).	Area surveyed in extension by village recorders.			Total area cadastrally surveyed (square miles).	Remarks.
			Previously (square miles).	During the year under report (square miles).	Total (square miles).		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Cachar ...	3,769	1,034	31	...	31	1,065	
Sylhet ...	5,380	545	299	5	304	849	
Goalpara ...	3,961	...	509	25	534	534	
Kamrup ...	3,858	1,966	320	22	342	2,308	
Darrang ...	3,406	1,015	159*	...	159	1,174	* Revised figures.
Nowgong ...	3,804	1,012	134	9	143	1,155	
Sibsagar ...	4,996	1,521	362	2	364	1,885	
Lakhimpur ...	3,980	269	462	...	462	731	
Garo Hills ...	3,140	...	58	4	62	62	
Total ...	36,294	7,362	2,334	67	2,401	9,763	

APPENDIX E.

Name of district.	Classification of *pattas*.	Total number of *pattas*.	Number of (*pattas* or portion of *pattas*) transfers.		Number of (*pattas* or portions of *pattas*) transfers by—				Area, in acres, transferred by—				Remarks.
			By summary procedure.	By regular procedure.	Sale or usufructuary mortgage.		Succession.	Other causes.	Sale of usufructuary mortgage.		Succession.	Other causes.	
					Under decree by civil court.	By private gift or contract.			Under decree of civil court.	By private gift or contract.			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Cachar ...	Periodic khiraj.	81,576	7,175	16	...	2,956	2,223	2,012	(a)	(a)	(a)	(a)	(a) Figures not available.
Sylhet ...		52,421	1,111	170	530	170	497	55	1,351	683	1,890	80	
Goalpara ...		5,171	299	6	...	4	18	283	...	35·68	139·99	...	
Kamrup ...		144,859	8,149	532	36	3,320	4,103	1,222	111·36	5,948·28	11,234·95	1,871·87	
Darrang ...		98,567	5,788	260	29	2,223	3,307	489	79	4,001	5,428	701	
Nowgong ...		60,259	3,209	137	52	1,205	1,904	185	158·30	1,575·61	3,702·19	193·58	
Sibsagar ...		169,544	9,960	1,620	85	3,081	6,943	1,471	149	8,395	17,542	796	
Lakhimpur ...		62,737	4,545	156	29	2,351	2,040	154	104	3,961	4,684	301	
Garo Hills ...		2,669	41	...	...	15	23	3	...	69	131	46	
Total ...		677,803	40,277	2,897	761	15,325	21,058	5,874	1,952·66	24,688·57	44,752·13	3,989·45	
Cachar ...	Lakhiraj.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Sylhet ...		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Goalpara ...		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Kamrup ...		38	5	...	...	...	4	1	...	...	137·53	124·58	
Darrang ...		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Nowgong ...		4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Sibsagar ...		81	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Lakhimpur ...		5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Garo Hills ...		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Total ...		128	5	...	...	...	4	1	...	...	137·53	124·58	
Cachar ...	Nisfkhiraj.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Sylhet ...		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Goalpara ...		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Kamrup ...		3,080	211	61	4	82	157	29	25·64	801·93	5,251·78	335·24	
Darrang ...		123	...	5	...	...	5	...	...	...	875	...	
Nowgong ...		24	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	295·57	...	
Sibsagar ...		491	8	1	...	2	7	...	...	27	12	...	
Lakhimpur ...		60	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Garo Hills ...		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Total ...		3,778	219	68	4	84	169	29	25·64	828·93	6,434·35	335·24	

APPENDIX F.

Condition of survey marks during the year ending 30th September 1916.

No.	Classification.	Total number of marks	Total number found in good order.	Number found not in good order.		Total of columns 4 and 5 in good order on 1st October 1916.	Number lost or left unvisited.
				Repaired.	Not repaired.		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	Theodolite stations—						
	(i) Stone prisms	21,233	15,082	3,588	1,197	18,670	1,434
	(ii) Square stones	26,405	19,477	251	294	19,728	6,383
	(iii) Other marks	87,750	43,779	19,700	10,831	63,479	13,440
2	Boundary marks of districts, etc. (other than theodolite stations)—						
	(i) Stone prisms	548	458	4	1	462	85
	(ii) Square stone	3,319	2,064	...	25	2,064	1,230
	(iii) Other marks	6,100	4,379	1,105	364	5,484	252
3	Boundary marks of private property (other than theodolite stations)—						
	(i) Stone prisms	5,824	5,438	37	64	5,475	285
	(ii) Square stones	15,079	13,375	79	206	13,454	1,419
	(iii) Other marks	7,517	6,369	164	272	6,533	712
4	Kanungo's mounds	18,227	7,851	2,296	2,155	10,147	5,925
	Total	192 002	118,272	27,224	15,339	145,496	31,165

APPENDIX G.

Statement showing resident and non-resident Recorders on the 30th September 1916.

Name of district.	Number of resident mandals and patwaris.	Number of non-resident mandals and patwaris.	Number of mandals and patwaris who have been exempted by superior orders.	Total.	Number of mandals and patwaris who have become resident or been exempted during the year under report.	Remarks.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Cachar	62	18	19	99	...	
Sylhet	50	15	4	69	4	
Goalpara	30	8	3	41	5	
Kamrup	175	31	95	301	3	
Darrang	88	26	32	146	3	
Nowgong	120	5(a)	45	170	...	(a) Dismissed 1 for not being resident.
Sibsagar	145	15	50	210	10*	* Have become resident.
Lakhimpur	118	6	3	127	...	
Garo Hills	5	7	...	12	...	
North-East Frontier ...	...	4	...	4	...	
Total ...	793	131	251	1,179	25	

LIBR... OF T... BOM... CRA... OF... ASIAT...

APPENDIX H.

Statement showing punishments imposed on Recorders during the year under report.

District.	Total number of recorders fined.	Fines imposed on recorders.				Fines subsequently remitted.	Net amount of fines imposed.
		Absence without leave.	Delay in submitting papers.	Other reasons.	Total.		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
		Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
Cachar ...	523	...	...	125 10 0	125 10 0	...	125 10 0
Sylhet ...	7	2 0 0	9 0 0	1 0 0	12 0 0	4 0 0	8 0 0
Goalpara ...	...	...	19 8 0	16 15 9	36 7 9	...	36 7 9
Kamrup ...	227	161 4 0	84 8 0	248 4 0	494 0 0	6 0 0	488 0 0
Darrang ...	52	...	27 8 0	83 4 0	110 12 0	0 14 0	109 14 0
Nowgong ...	158	57 8 0	75 0 0	42 0 0	174 8 0	...	174 8 0
Sibsagar ...	180	185 4 0	76 8 0	52 0 0	313 12 0	5 8 0	319 4 0
Lakhimpur ...	39	1 0 0	1 8 0	59 3 0	61 11 0	3 0 0	58 11 0
Garo Hills ...	12	10 0 0	...	...	10 0 0	...	10 0 0
Total ...	1,198	417 0 0	293 8 0	628 4 9	1,338 12 9	19 6 0	1,330 6 9

APPENDIX I.

Statement showing travelling allowance drawn by Supervisor Kanungos and Recorders.

	Travelling allowance drawn by Supervisor Kanungos.	Travelling allowance drawn by Recorders.
	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
Cachar	4 0 6	11 5 9
Sylhet	317 4 0	630 5 0
Goalpara	85 4 6	56 3 6
Kamrup	419 0 0	1,222 0 0
Darrang	28 8 3	203 10 0
Nowgong	53 0 9	944 2 9
Sibsagar	25 13 0	122 9 3
Lakhimpur	221 14 6	91 3 6
Garo Hills	56 0 0	247 0
Total ...	1,210 13 6	3,528 7 9

A. S. P. O. (R. & A.) No. 63—200—13-2-1917—A. E. R.

Resolution on the Survey and Settlement Report, Assam, for the year ending the 30th September 1916.

Extract from the Proceedings of the Chief Commissioner of Assam in the Revenue Department, No. 670R., dated the 10th February 1917.

READ—

The Survey and Settlement Report, Assam, for the year ending the 30th September 1916.

RESOLUTION.

THE most important incident of the year was the separation of the Assam Survey Department from the Survey Department of Bengal and its transfer to the control of Lieutenant-Colonel Crichton, Superintendent, Eastern Circle, Survey of India. This arrangement was introduced experimentally, but it has proved a complete success, and the Chief Commissioner is greatly indebted to Lieutenant-Colonel Crichton for his management of the department. The outturn of work by the Assam Traverse Party was satisfactory, and instructions have been issued to ensure that demarcation will be done in future in advance of traverse for the purposes of extension surveys. The Drawing Office printed over 400,000 maps during the year, seven-eighths of which were for the Government of Bengal. Useful work was done in connection with jurisdiction maps. Lack of funds rendered it impossible to complete the Assam Land Surveying School, and an unfortunate breach of discipline led to the expulsion of more than half the students, with the result that only 18 persons appeared at the final examination of the ordinary mandal class. The department sustained a severe loss during the year in the death of Mr. T. Shaw, who had put in many years of exceptionally good work in Assam and who had been re-employed after retirement on the preparation of District Survey Gazetteers and other work. The Chief Commissioner has benefited very greatly from Lieutenant-Colonel Crichton's ripe experience and sound advice in all matters connected with the department, and he is glad to learn that Mr. Smart, Mr. Gasper, and the other officers under him have discharged their duties satisfactorily.

2. The three main settlements in progress during the year were the re-settlement of revenue in Cachar and the Jaintia Parganas in Sylhet and the survey and preparation of a record-of-rights in a typical portion of the permanently-settled area of the latter district. The Settlement Officer's proposals for rates in the Katigora and the Hailakandi Groups of Cachar were received, but orders could not be passed immediately, as the great flood, which occurred in October 1916, necessitated a reconsideration of the situation. The Chief Commissioner subsequently decided that it was neither necessary nor desirable to suspend the settlement operations, but that the new rates should not be imposed before the 1st of April 1918, and then only if the district was in a condition to bear an enhancement. The rates in themselves are extremely moderate, but time must be allowed to the people to recover from the very grave loss which they have suffered. Useful work was also done in the Jaintia Parganas, though the progress of attestation was much delayed by numerous partition and mutation cases and heavy objections, with the result that no group reports could be submitted during 1916. Excellent work was also done in the permanently-settled area of Sylhet by Mr. Gimson and his assistants, though unfortunately it seems hardly likely that the financial position will admit of Government taking early action on the experience gained from his work. In Sibsagar and Kamrup the classification of land taken up since the last re-settlement was revised, an operation which was attended with a considerable increase of revenue, more particularly in the latter district.

3. The Chief Commissioner has read with interest the remarks of the Director of Land Records in connection with the desirability of exercising discretion in enforcing the orders for the appointment of resident recorders. He is, no doubt, correct in holding that there are certain areas in which it is quite impossible to obtain a local resident qualified for the appointment, and in such localities it may be advisable to frankly recognise the facts and to acquiesce in an arrangement which, though not ideal, may be the best possible in the circumstances. The Commissioner will be addressed upon the subject.

4. The Chief Commissioner is glad to learn that in the majority of circles the Sub-Deputy Collectors in charge displayed energy and activity and that the condition of the record has improved. The Director remarks that transfers were more numerous than in the previous year, but the Chief Commissioner is sure that no unnecessary transfers were made by the Commissioner, as he must realise their undesirability just as clearly as the Director of Land Records does. Sixty-seven square miles were surveyed in extension during the year, and 121 square miles were traversed for future detailed survey. This traverse is at present entrusted to the professional Survey Party, but it is hoped that, when the arrears have been worked off, it will be possible to arrange for the work to be done by mandals trained in the use of the theodolite.

5. The percentage of mutations due to succession to the total number of *pattas* varied in the five upper districts of the Assam Valley from 2·8 to 4·09, and it seems fairly clear that an appreciable number of cases still escape record. The Chief Commissioner approves the proposal put forward by the Director that separate returns should be submitted for mutations effected by the mauzadar and those effected by the Sub-Deputy Collector. A report will be called for from the Commissioner as to the allegation that in some districts mauzadars are inclined to effect mutation at their homes instead of in the villages.

In paragraph 11 of his report the Director of Land Records has explained at some length the roster system, under which field work in the Assam Valley is inspected. This system had not previously been brought to the notice of the Chief Commissioner, and he will consider after consulting the local officers, whether it is the best that can be devised.

6. The Chief Commissioner is glad to learn that the District Officers in the Assam Valley paid much attention to the supervision of land records work, with the not unnatural result that there has been a decided improvement in the accuracy of the record. Sir Archdale Earle is indebted to Mr. Edwards for his careful administration of the department and to Mr. McSwiney for his interesting report. He notices with pleasure the encomiums bestowed by the Director on Rai Radha Kanta Handiqui Bahadur, his assistant, and on other officers.

By order of the Chief Commissioner of Assam,

B. C. ALLEN,

Chief Secretary to the Chief Commissioner of Assam.

A. S. P. O. (R. & A.) No. 63—200—13-2-1917—M. C. P.

ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE

SURVEY OPERATIONS IN ASSAM

For the year 1916-17.

No. 2146—XIII-6, dated Shillong, the 22nd November 1917.

From—Lieut.-Colonel R. T. CRICHTON, C.I.E., I.A., Superintendent, Eastern Circle, Survey of India, in charge Assam Surveys,

To—The Chief Secretary to the Hon'ble the Chief Commissioner of Assam.

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report on the Provincial Survey Department of Assam for the year 1916-17.

1. The Department was under my control throughout the year.

2. There was no change among officers. Mr. A. B. Smart, Deputy Superintendent, Survey of India, with Mr. B. C. Gasper (Extra Assistant Commissioner) as his Assistant, remained in charge of the Assam Traverse Party and Drawing Office during the year under report.

3. The sanction of the Government of India has been received to the continuance, till the conclusion of the war, of the existing arrangement by which the Assam Surveys came under the control of the Survey of India.

II.—REPORT ON THE WORK OF ASSAM TRAVERSE PARTY.

4. I attach hereto a list of Survey operations with brief details of the work done by the Party.

5. Technical descriptive details of each operation are not given so as to keep the report within the prescribed limits, but they are, as usual, filed in my office and can be referred to at any time.

6. With reference to certain operations mentioned in the list which require explanation, I beg to make the following remarks :—

Item 1.—*Extension Surveys in Kamrup.*—The outturn is smaller than last year, 34 villages against 92 in the previous year having been traversed. This is partly due to the employment of only one traversar throughout the season against 4 in the previous year (two or three traversers were transferred from this job to the Garo Hills for more urgent work) and partly to the scattered nature of villages and unhealthiness of the tract.

The programme in this district has been considerably reduced, as it was found that the list contained 235 villages which had been previously traversed and cadastrally surveyed on a theodolite basis and retraversing was therefore not necessary.

Thirty-two villages were also excluded from traverse at the instance of the Deputy Commissioner, as there was no cultivation in them.

Only 12 villages now remain to complete the programme.

Item 4.—*Permanent demarcation of the Khuntaghat-Silli boundary.*—Forty out of 61 miles of the boundary were permanently demarcated and the remaining 21 could not be done owing to disputes having arisen.

It is expected that these will be decided shortly and the remaining work will be completed next season.

Item 6.—*Check survey of the Goalpara Garo Hills.*—This work was reported to have been completed last year, but the computations did not prove in some places and had to be revised. Everything has now been completed and the completion report with maps has been submitted to the Local Administration.

Item 7.—*Checking of the Mechpara-Chapar boundary.*—This was included in the programme but could not be done, as the parties concerned did not decide before the close of the season whether they wished to have the boundary, as demarcated on the ground by the arbitrator, checked by the Survey Department or not.

Item 8.—*Relaying of the boundaries of Thak No.* 1743.—The traversing of the whole boundary was reported to have been completed in last year's report, but on comparison of the maps some differences from the thak boundary were discovered and about 17 linear miles had to be retraversed.

The Deputy Commissioner, Sylhet, has been asked if he approves of the temporary demarcation. The permanent demarcation has been stopped, *vide* Assam Administration letter No. 4963R., dated the 9th October 1917.

Item 10.—*Patharia Pratabgarh Hills boundary.*—The permanent demarcation could not be undertaken during the year owing to the district officials not having been able to arrive at any decision regarding disputes that had arisen.

Item 11.—*Permanent demarcation of the Shella-Mawlong boundary.*—The boundary was temporarily demarcated in 1914-15 and the permanent demarcation was carried out during the year under report. This had been pending since 1913-14 and has now been finally disposed of by supplying the maps to the Deputy Commissioner, Khasi and Jaintia Hills.

Item 12.—*Traversing for extension surveys in district Sibsagar.*—The programme consisted of 25 villages in mauza Abhoypur, but only 7 villages were traversed. More work could not be done owing to the village boundaries not being demarcated and the people being unwilling to point them out. Probably they themselves had very little idea as to where the boundaries should be.

Item 13.—*Relaying of the Mechpara and Chapar boundaries with Gouripur Pargana.*—Owing to changes in the management of the Mechpara Estate nothing could be done with regard to the relaying of these boundaries during the season under report.

The Mechpara estate has now come under the Court of Wards and it is hoped to dispose of this case during the coming season.

Item 14.—*Instrument checking standards.*—All 5 standards have now been completed, and if it is considered advisable to erect more standards in any other districts in Assam, Government will be addressed separately on the subject.

III.—Miscellaneous work.

7. In addition to the sanctioned programme the following jobs were also carried out:—

(*a*) The survey of a grant applied for by Mrs. C. Smart in district Sibsagar, which had been made by a private Surveyor, was tested by the Department at the request of the Deputy Commissioner and cost of Rs. 54 realized and credited to Government.

(*b*) A revision survey of the Fruit Experimental Station at Shillong was completed and copies of the map supplied to the Director of Land Record and Agriculture, Assam.

(*c*) The survey of a plot of land in Block XII of Shillong which had been applied for by Mr. C. H. Holder was surveyed at the request of the Deputy Commissioner, Khasi and Jaintia Hills, and a copy of the map supplied.

8. The maps and records of 76 Waste Land Grants surveyed by approved Surveyors were examined and checked; the fees therefor at sanctioned rates, amounting to Rs. 6,057, were deposited and credited to Government.

Various other comparative maps and index maps, etc., were prepared for the Settlement Officer, Cachar.

9. With regard to certain items of the last year's report in which further report was needed, I have the following remarks to make:—

Item 11.—*Census of G. T. Marks.*—As this is not a matter of immediate necessity, I do not propose to address Government on the subject until normal conditions are resumed, *i.e.*, until after the war.

Item 12.—*Goalpara-Bhutan boundary.*—The new maps have been signed by the Bhutan Authorities.

Item 13.—*Relaying pillar No.* 81 *of the Bhutan-Kamrup boundary.*—Pillar No. 81 has been shown on maps in its correct position as found on the ground.

IV.—Programme for future years.

I again discussed this with the Director of Land Records and Agriculture, Assam, who has partly supplied some figures asked for by me. I hope to address Government shortly on the subject.

V.—Index maps for the annual report.

The index map as promised in the last year's report is now submitted with the report showing all previous surveys so far done in Assam.

VI.—Employment of trained mandals for traversing small areas of extension surveys which occur annually.

I have discussed this question very recently fully with the Director of Land Records, Assam, and hope to submit my proposal to Government in due course.

As there appears to be sufficient programme for the Traverse Party for seasons 1917-18 and 1918-19, I do not propose to train any mandals in theodolite surveying this year.

VII.—Permanent marking.

Hitherto permanent marks have not been used for marking boundaries in decided dispute cases at the time of demarcation, but the Local Government has now decided that such boundaries shall be marked either with stones or concrete blocks (with distinctive lettering thereon) according to the importance of the job.

VIII.—Drawing Office.

The Drawing Office consists of the General Section, Reproduction Section, Thana Map Section and Record Section, and I deal with them section by section :—

IX.—Reproduction Section.

The total output of this section was 145,674 copies of maps. Of these, 59,909 copies were printed for Bengal and 85,765 copies for Assam against 350,365 copies for Bengal and 50,155 for Assam in the previous year, showing a decrease of 290,456 in Bengal and an increase of 35,610 in Assam, the net result being a decrease of 254,846 in the total output of this section when compared with the previous year.

The smaller outturn is due to the fact that Bengal Surveys did not send as much work as they did last year.

The cost of printing the Bengal maps amounting to Rs. 2,511-13-9 has been paid by the Bengal Government by Book Debit.

I give below the details of maps printed district by district :—

District.	Village Maps.	Miscellaneous Maps.	Jurisdiction Maps.	
1	2	3	4	
Assam.				
Cachar	37,920	1,134	770	
Darrang	30	4,192	...	
Garo Hills	875	1,106	...	
Goalpara	770	1,930	...	
Kamrup	3,890	1,098	308	
Khasi and Jaintia Hills ...	...	13,218	...	
Lakhimpur	20	510	...	
Lushai Hills	...	...	...	
Naga Hills	...	...	...	
Nowgong	220	...	...	
Sibsagar	1,860	...	...	
Sylhet	14,090	10	2,814	
Manipur	...	...	...	
Total ...	58,675	23,198	3,892	= 85,765
Bengal.				
Mymensingh	57,534	...	...	
Various districts	...	2,375	...	
Total	57,534	2,375	...	= 59,909
Grand total, Bengal and Assam	...	...	...	= 145,674

The total recoveries for reproduction work amounted to Rs. 11,303 against Rs. 7,504 for last year.

X.—Thana Mapping Section.

The following jurisdiction maps have been printed and distributed :—

1. Cachar	... ...	4 Thanas	770 copies.
2. Kamrup	... ...	1 Circle	308 ,,
3. Sylhet	... ...	17 Thanas	2,814 ,,
	Total ...	...	... 3,892 ,,

Last year 1,963 maps were printed and this shows an increase of 1,929 over last year's figures and the outturn is satisfactory.

XI.—School Maps.

Although the completion of the school maps was reported in last year's report, the Director of Public Instruction afterwards wanted some more names added, which necessitated additional drawing and this work had to be done during the year under report.

The work is expected to be finished shortly.

XII.—Record Section.

Two hundred and fourteen trace maps and traverse volumes and field books were received and racked in the record-room.

XIII.—Survey Gazetteers.

The Survey Gazetteers of Sylhet and Goalpara were completed and printed, and copies supplied to District Officers and others during the year under report.

XIV.—Assam Land Surveying School.

Maulvi Talmizur Rahman Chaudhury, Sub-Deputy Collector, was the Principal of the School up to the 31st July 1917 when he reverted to the general line. Mr. G. C. Bardalai, B.Sc., of Birmingham, Probationary Extra Assistant Commissioner, took over the Principalship of the School with effect from the 1st August 1917.

Mr. G. C. Bardalai was attached to the Assam Traverse and Drawing Office for about two months to undergo a practical course in Traverse and Cadastral Survey. He was for some time also allowed by the Deputy Commissioner, Kamrup, at my request, to learn settlement and land records work with the Sub-Deputy Collector of Gauhati Circle.

XV.—Officers' Training Class.

The class was opened on the 10th November 1916, and one officer of the Indian Civil Service (Mr. S. P. Desai, Assistant Commissioner) and 4 officers of the Subordinate Executive Service joined on different dates.

They were trained both in Survey and Settlement. The result was only fair. Out of four Sub-Deputy Collectors two came out successful, while Mr. Desai, I.C.S., passed both in Survey and Settlement with much credit.

The failure of one Sub-Deputy Collector (Maulvi Azimuddin Muhammad Chaudhury) was to a certain extent due to his sickness during the period of training.

One Deputy Ranger from Khasi and Jaintia Hills and three Amins from the Manipur State were also trained in Surveying (Levelling and Theodolite).

XVI.—Mandal or Patwari Class.

On the 2nd January 1917 the ordinary mandal class was opened when 21 candidates from the districts noted below were admitted :—

Kamrup	7
Sibsagar	4
Lakhimpur	1
Darrang	2
Nowgong	2
Garo Hills	1
Sylhet	3
Goalpara	1
Total	21

Out of 21, seventeen came out successful. The result is satisfactory. Rules for allotting marks were framed by me and they have been approved by the Local Administration.

Great difficulty and much inconvenience was felt by the students and the school staff for want of proper buildings. All thatched buildings were destroyed by the storm and the boys had to be accommodated in one of the class rooms.

Immediate steps were taken to find money at least for important buildings, *viz.*, Hindu hostel and Hindu master's quarters.

The Superintending Engineer, Assam Circle, kindly arranged to meet Rs. 15,000 or perhaps more, if necessary, from the current financial year's (1917-18) budget.

The site-plans and revised estimates have since been approved by the officers concerned and administrative approval has been received from the Local Administration.

A start has now been made, and it is expected that the buildings will be completed before the close of the current financial year.

Satisfactory arrangements have now been made for the drinking water-supply by providing a pucca well in the school compound.

The question of admission of new candidates which has been engaging my attention for some time past has now been decided in consultation with the Director of Land Records and Agriculture and it is proposed that the school could better be employed on training the existing mandals who are not efficient in field surveying and drawing and did not undergo training in any recognized Survey School.

District Officers were also consulted and almost all have agreed to send a few of their mandals (as they can be conveniently spared) to the school annually for training.

It is proposed to train about 35 existing mandals and to take only 10 new candidates yearly, as the accommodation of the school will not allow more. Later on when the number of passed students on the waiting list for employment is lowered, the number of new students can be increased as may be thought fit.

The question of training mandals in the use of the theodolite is being dealt with in connection with the future programme of the Provincial Survey Department, with a view to having future extension surveys done altogether by mandal agency, leaving the computations and plotting as at present to be done by the Assam Survey Department.

XVII.—Inspections.

I inspected the Assam Land Surveying School at Jhalukbari near Gauhati and also saw the officers under training working in the field and was satisfied with the system adopted by the Principal in teaching field surveying.

I also paid occasional visits to the Assam Traverse Party and Drawing Office in Shillong. Personal inspection of traverse work in the field I do not consider necessary.

Mr. Smart inspected the field work periodically and Mr. Gasper remained throughout in the field.

XVIII.—Services of Officers.

Mr. A. B. Smart, Deputy Superintendent, in charge, Assam Traverse Party and Drawing Office, maintained his high reputation and supervised the work to my entire satisfaction. Mr. Smart takes a keen interest in his work and has put forward several valuable suggestions.

Mr. B. C. Gasper, Extra Assistant Commissioner, Assistant to the Officer in charge, is proving to be a very good Survey Officer and has rendered useful help to his Executive Officer and worked to his entire satisfaction.

Mr. G. C. Bardalai, B.Sc., Extra Assistant Commissioner, Principal, Assam Land Surveying School, who has recently joined, promises to be a success and it is confidently expected that he will improve the technical training of the school.

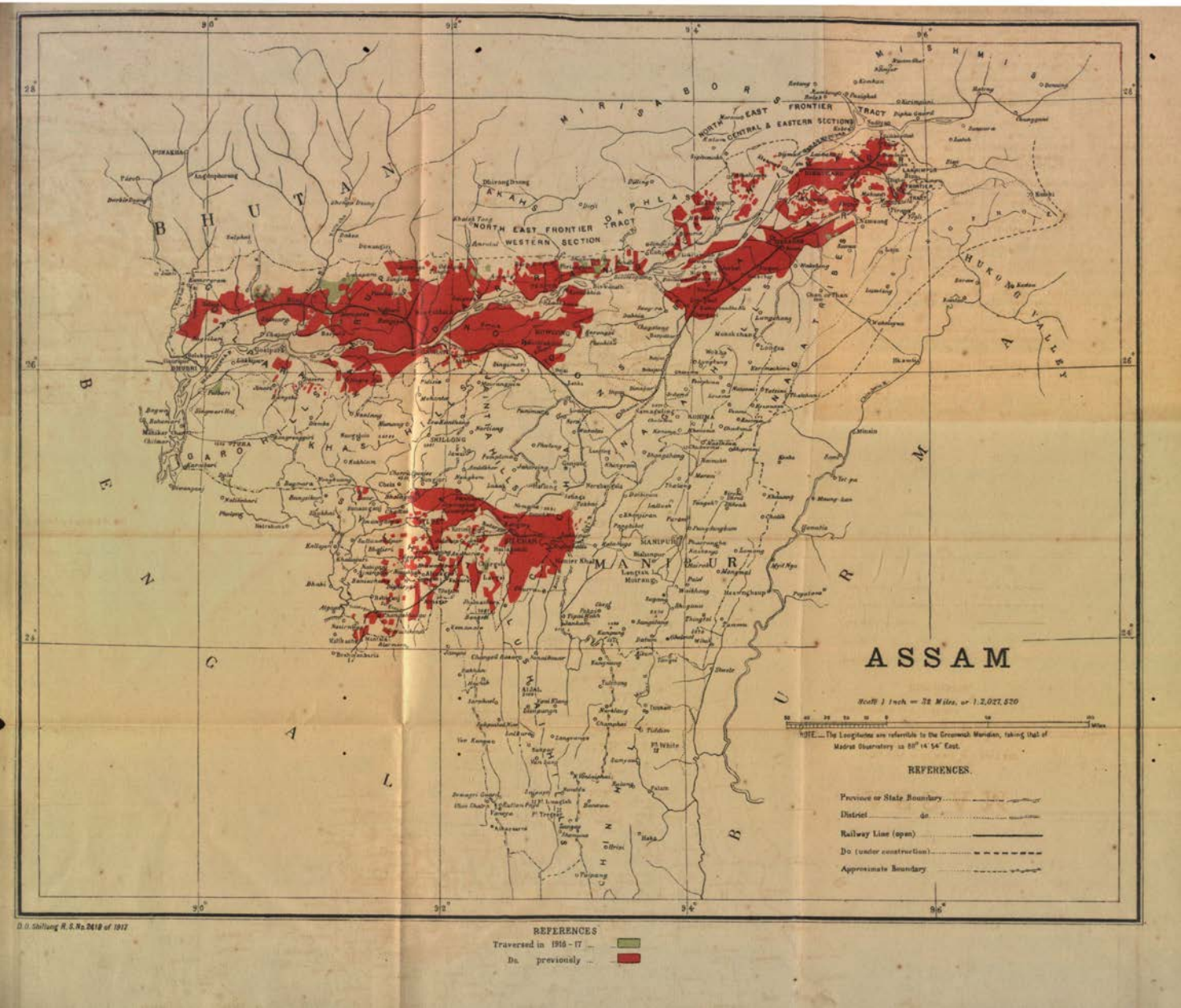
Pandit Mam Raj Sharma, my Head Clerk and Head Accountant, has continued to work extremely hard. I cannot speak too highly of the valuable assistance he has afforded me.

List of Survey Operations (1916-17).

Serial No.	District.	Nature of work with brief description.	Present state of completion.	For Government or Private Agency
1	2	3	4	5
1	Kamrup ...	Extension traverse for cadastral survey.	34 villages traversed. Area 149 square miles.	Government.
2	Darrang ...	Ditto ditto ...	90 villages traversed. Area 105 square miles.	Ditto.
3	Goalpara ...	Survey of the Brahmaputra and the Godadhar rivers off Dhubri.	Completed. Area 55 square miles. This is a recurring job for another two years.	Government (Public Works Department).
4	Ditto ...	Permanent demarcation of the Khuntaghat Sidli boundary.	40 miles of the boundary permanently demarcated and 21 remaining.	Partly Government and partly private.
5	Ditto ...	Demarcation of Sidli-Chirang boundary.	16 linear miles of the boundary which remained last year was traversed. Some 25 miles in 3 places were also temporarily demarcated at the request of the Deputy Commissioner.	Government.
6	Ditto ...	Check survey of the Goalpara-Garo Hills district boundary.	Resurvey completed ...	Ditto.
7	Ditto ...	The checking of the Metchpara-Chapar boundary.	The work was not undertaken, *vide* remarks in the report.	Private.
8	Sylhet ...	Relaying of the boundary of *thak* No. 1743.	17 linear miles of last year's work, which did not prove, were retraversed.	Government.
9	Ditto ...	Traversing of Dohaliya Hills, Block A.	38·19 linear miles of traverse were run and the work completed.	Ditto.
10	Ditto ...	Relaying of the Patharia-Pratabgarh Hills boundary.	Permanent demarcation not undertaken, *vide* remarks in the report.	Ditto.
11	Khasi and Jaintia Hills.	Permanent demarcation of the Shella-Mawlong boundary.	Permanent demarcation completed.	Ditto.
12	Sibsagar ...	Traversing for extension surveys.	7 villages traversed. Area 9 square miles.	Ditto.
13	Goalpara ...	Relaying of the Mechpara and Chapar boundaries, with Gauripur pargana.	Work not undertaken, *vide* remarks in the report.	Private.
14	Sylhet ...	Instrument checking standards.	The work which remained last year has now been completed.	Government.
15	Garo Hills ...	Traversing for extension surveys.	146 villages traversed. Area 39 square miles.	Ditto.
16	Sylhet ...	Traversing and relaying portion of the Sylhet-Hill Tippera boundary.	Temporary demarcation of about 4 miles in length was completed.	Ditto.

Dated Shillong,
The 22nd November 1917.

R. T. CRICHTON, *Lieut.-Colonel, I.A.,*
Superintendent, Eastern Circle, in charge, Assam Surveys.


ASSAM
Scale 1 Inch = 32 Miles, or 1:2,027,520
NOTE.—The Longitudes are referrible to the Greenwich Meridian, taking that of Madras Observatory as 80° 14' 54" East.
REFERENCES.
Province or State Boundary
District do.
Railway Line (open)
Do (under construction)
Approximate Boundary
REFERENCES
Traversed in 1916-17
Do. previously
BHUTAN
NORTH EAST FRONTIER TRACT
NORTH EAST FRONTIER WESTERN SECTION
NORTH EAST FRONTIER CENTRAL & EASTERN SECTIONS
MANIPUR
HUKUNG VALLEY
BENGAL
BURMA
SHILLONG
KOHIMA
IMPHAL
D.O. Shillong R.S.No.2418 of 1917

No. 122-7034.

FROM

J. McSWINEY, Esq., M.A., I.C.S.,
DIRECTOR OF LAND RECORDS ANDAGRICULTURE, ASSAM,

To

THE CHIEF SECRETARY TO THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER OF ASSAM.

Dated Shillong, the 11th December 1917.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to submit a report upon the work of the Department of Land Records and Settlements in Assam during the year ending the 30th September 1917.

I have the honour to be,

SIR,

Your most obedient Servant,

J. McSWINEY,

Director of Land Records and Agriculture, Assam.

[Prescribed maximum length—10 pages.]

REPORT

ON THE

DEPARTMENT OF LAND RECORDS IN ASSAM

FOR THE

YEAR ENDING 30TH SEPTEMBER 1917.

PART I.—RESETTLEMENT.

Cachar.

1. The resettlement operations in Cachar continued during the whole year under the supervision of Mr. W. L. Scott, assisted by the four Assistant Settlement Officers mentioned in the last report. From May last Mr. Scott was appointed Deputy Commissioner of the district in addition to his settlement duties and since then the detail work of the settlement has been practically in charge of Rai Sahib Debendra Kumar Mukherjee, Assistant Settlement Officer. The subordinate staff remained unchanged.

The programme for the year comprised (*a*) the submission of the assessment reports of Silchar, Chatla, Banraj and Vernerpur groups, (*b*) the revenue attestation of all the six groups, (*c*) the completion of the final records, *viz.*, maps, chithas, and jamabandis of all the groups, and (*d*) the distribution of the final pattas. There was delay in the submission of the assessment reports on account of the interruptions caused by the abnormal floods of October 1916. The sanction of the Local Administration to the new rates of assessment was received for all the six groups of the district. A special report on the assessment of the land under tea and waste in tea gardens held under Mirasdari lease was also submitted and sanction to the proposed rates was received since the close of the year. The Settlement Officer also submitted detailed proposals for the settlement of the 2nd-class fisheries in Katigora, Silchar, Hailakandi and Vernerpur groups to the Commissioner and received orders thereon during the year.

Revenue attestation was practically completed except in Vernerpur: this group was taken up in September and should be completed by now. The revenue attestation of the tea gardens awaited orders sanctioning the revised rates of assessment. The programme of office work was rather heavy and could not be fully carried out mainly on account of the delay caused by flood relief work. Assessment statements for Silchar, Chatla, Banraj and Vernerpur groups and the revenue calculation of all the outstanding groups were completed, except in case of tea and waste lands in tea gardens, for which new rates have been sanctioned only lately.

Regarding the completion of the final records, the fairing of chithas was done for all the groups, except 8 villages, and the copying of the Jamabandi register for 377 villages and final pattas for 324 villages were completed before the close of the year.

The calculation of the revenue of new pattas at the rates previously in force for the purpose of giving effect to the rules relating to deferred enhancement was finished for Katigora, Chatla, Banraj and Hailakandi groups and the greater portion of the Silchar group. Efforts were made in the beginning to carry out the rules automatically in case of all pattas over Rs. 12 in revenue. But great difficulty was experienced in arriving at the true enhancement owing to the splitting up of *ejmali* pattas, as this involved the detailed comparison of maps as well of records in all cases and resulted in a very heavy increase of office work. It was therefore finally decided to work out the percentage of enhancements in case only of pattas regarding which objections were received.

To avoid all chance of hardship the Settlement Officer issued a form of objection to enhancement in which the rules were carefully explained and, as the people were distinctly keen on maintaining their rights, it is practically certain that they did not allow any suitable case to escape notice.

The final inking of maps was completed, 649 maps were sent up during the year to the Drawing office for reproduction and prints of 625 have been received back. On the 30th September 1917 the maps of only Lakhipur and Vernerpur were awaiting the completion of revenue attestation.

Practically no mutation work was done during the year. It was not possible for the Resettlement records to go beyond the date of Record attestation and consequently the pending mutations must be taken up on the new record: this cannot be done until 2 copies of the new chithas are made and the maps are received back from the Drawing office. This work will be taken up as early in this cold weather as possible.

The work of patta writing was not pushed through in view of the Chief Commissioner's decision that the enhanced rates of revenue should not be introduced before 1st April 1918 owing to the loss the district suffered from the severe floods in 1916.

Resettlement work is expected to be closed from the 31st December 1917, and whatever work will remain to be done after that date must be done under the Deputy Commissioner by the ordinary Land Records staff of the district.

I take this opportunity to mention again the very good work done by Mr. Scott and by his assistants, especially Rai Sahib Debendra Kumar Mukherjee, whose good services were rewarded by Government during the year with his title of Rai Sahib.

Sylhet—(i) Jaintia.

2. As in Cachar, Mr. W. L. Scott was in charge of the operations throughout the year. Rai Sahib Debendra Kumar Mukherjee was appointed Assistant Settlement Officer, Jaintia, with a view to exercising subordinate control and relieving the Settlement Officer of routine work. There was no other change in the strength of the staff.

The programme for the year was the revenue attestation and final preparation of the records of Gowainghat group and the completion and submission of the assessment reports of the Jaintiapur and Kanairghat groups. The revenue attestation of Gowainghat was completed and the work of preparing the new jamabandis and final pattas was fairly advanced. The assessment reports for Jaintiapur and Kanairghat groups were submitted in July and August respectively, and the proposed new rates were published for criticism about the end of the year. Good progress had been made in preparing the new records.

All the new maps were completed and sent to the Drawing office for reproduction.

Proposals for the resettlement of the *mahal samil jalkar* of Gowainghat group were submitted to the Commissioner. The work remaining to be done consists of revenue attestation of the Jaintiapur and Kanairghat groups, completion of the new records, submission of proposals for the resettlement of *mahal samil jalkar* in the Jaintiapur and Kanairghat groups and for the resettlement of land under tea and waste land in tea estates. The work is well forward and should be completed by March or April 1918.

Sylhet—(ii) Dassana area.

The operations in the experimental area were finished in August last with the exception of cases under sections 105 and 106 of the Bengal Tenancy Act, VIII of 1885. This has been taken up by a Munsiff with settlement experience on deputation from Bengal in November. The final publication of the records was completed in the middle of July and the Settlement Officer, Mr. C. Gimson, reverted to general duty early in August. The record was handed over to the Deputy Commissioner of Sylhet by the middle of that month, and the two Assistant Settlement Officers then reverted to general duty. The Deputy Commissioner of Sylhet was notified as Settlement Officer for the area under section 108A, and the District Judge as special judge under section 109A of the Bengal Tenancy Act. The final report on the settlement is practically ready except the portion dealing with cases under sections 105 and 106 and the cost thereof. Mr. Gimson's work has been excellent throughout the operations. He displayed great energy and tact in handling this new work and bringing it to a successful completion. His assistants also have worked satisfactorily. It is regrettable that financial considerations have made it impossible to continue the work throughout the whole of the district.

Other settlement work.

3. The work in connection with the revision of classification in areas taken up after resettlement in Sibsagar and Kamrup which began in 1915-16 was completed during the year under report with satisfactory results.

In Lakhimpur the attestation of the area and classification of Tinsukia town was finished and the rate report was submitted to the Commissioner, Assam Valley Districts.

Extension surveys were carried out by local agency in Sylhet, Goalpara, Kamrup, Darrang, Nowgong, Sibsagar and Lakhimpur, the area surveyed being about 212 square miles. The settlement of the plains mauzas of the Garo Hills having fallen in, the question of their cadastral survey and resettlement was taken up and Maulvi Abdur Rashid, Sub-Deputy Collector, was deputed last cold weather to enquire and report on the economic conditions of the people and to make suggestions for land classification and assessment. On the receipt of his report the idea of an enhancement of revenue was dropped, as the material conditions of these mauzas had not altered much since the last resettlement; the existing rates of assessment are therefore to be continued for a further period of 2 years from 1st April 1917. It has, however, been decided to have an accurate survey of the 4 mauzas made in the meantime by the district Land Records staff.

PART II.

LAND RECORDS.

Mandals and patwaris.

4. The question of strengthening the staff in Nowgong, mentioned in paragraph 4 of last year's report, was gone into locally and 5 mandals were added in Kampur circle.

There was no other change in the cadre which stood on the 30th September 1917, as 239 in the first grade, 701 in the 2nd and 247 in the 3rd.

So far back as 1912 I found the lots of some patwaris in the Kanairghat circle of the Jaintia parganas too large, but the question was held in abeyance owing to the inception of resettlement operations. The Settlement Officer has now proposed the addition of 4 patwaris in this circle. In Darrang district large extensions of cultivation have rendered the creation of new lots necessary, and the Deputy Commissioner has proposed 6 new lots. These proposals are under consideration: the need of additions to the staff is encouraging as it shows how the country is being opened up: failure to respond to this means the risk of loss of revenue.

The number of resident recorders, including those exempted from residence, has fallen off from 1,044 in 1915-16 to 1,020. The decrease is shared by all the districts, except Sylhet, Nowgong and the North-East Frontier. In Cachar the decrease is apparently due to the temporary transfer of resident recorders for settlement work and the entertainment of non-resident candidates in their places. In Goalpara 6 of the non-resident recorders are reported to be residing within 2 miles of their lots: under the rules they can be exempted. In Kamrup the death and dismissal of resident mandals and want of trained local candidates to take their places have brought about a temporary reduction in the number of residents. Three of those classed as non-resident in Darrang have houses and cultivation within their lots and are practically resident. No explanation is forthcoming in regard to the fall in Sibsagar. Six of the non-residents of the Garo Hills are reported to have their homes quite close to their lots. In the last report I referred to the hardship and inefficiency which was likely to result from a hard and fast application of the rules regarding residence. The Local Administration has, after consulting the Commissioners, allowed Deputy Commissioners to use their discretion in cases where a strict enforcement of the rule would cause real hardship and difficulty. This may tend to effect a slight reduction in the number of resident recorders, but will probably ensure better work.

Eight free-studentships were granted during the year in the Assam Survey School to candidates from lots where resident recorders are not available.

Supervisor Kanungos.

5. There was no change in the number of Supervisor Kanungos during the year. As anticipated in paragraph 5 of the report for 1915-16, it is probably necessary to retain permanently the services of the Kanungo temporarily sanctioned for the plains mauzas of the Garo Hills: the proposal of the Deputy Commissioner to this effect and a proposal from the Settlement Officer, Cachar and Jaintia, for the appointment of an extra Kanungo in Kanairghat circle are under consideration. General remarks on the work of the Land Records staff of the province will be found in paragraph 11.

Punishments.

6. During the year 773 recorders were fined a sum of Rs. 1,469-13-3. Details district by district are given in the statement in Appendix H. The average of the fines works out to Re. 1-14-5 and is higher than in the previous year, though the number of men fined has been the lowest for the last 6 years. The increase occurred under all the three heads, but was most marked under "delay in submitting papers" particularly in Kamrup and Sibsagar. The increase under "absence without leave" is presumably due to greater efforts to ensure early attendance for the recess.

One Supervisor Kanungo of Kamrup was fined a sum of Rs. 20 for slackness. The field allowances of two, one in Kamrup and one in Sibsagar were stopped for bad work.

Travelling allowance.

7. The amounts drawn as travelling allowance by Supervisor Kanungos and recorders during the year were Rs. 1,150-11-0 and Rs. 2,944-4-9, respectively. There has been a decrease under both the heads, that under the latter being more marked : this is probably the result of the ruling of the Comptroller referred to in paragraph 7 of the last report that the recorders are not menial servants and are not therefore entitled to actual expenses. Most of the Deputy Commissioners who were consulted on the effect of this ruling did not object to it, but I am not sure whether they realised that it meant an increased charge on their contingent grants for the carriage of records, unless the fair claims of the staff for such expenses are to be neglected.

The privilege of drawing halting allowance for recess at district or subdivisional headquarters granted to those who live 5 miles away and are not provided with free accommodation was extended to the mandals who recess at Barpeta, where it is very difficult to find any room for strangers.

Sub-Deputy Collectors.

8. The work done by the Sub-Deputy Collectors in charge of Land Records circles is detailed briefly in Appendix B. I think that on the whole there continues to be an improvement in their work and that most of the circle officers now endeavour to do their best. They are generally exercising more control over their Kanungos' work, though there is still considerable room for improvement in this respect. The character of the work to be done varies according to the character of cultivation : in a fluctuating tract the running of check lines is the most important duty, while the maintenance of the record by mutation of names calls for most attention in the settled areas. I think that more villages should have been inspected in Sunamganj and Habiganj even though the need for local enquiries is not very great. Officers deserving commendation are Babu Pramod Chandra Sen Gupta, Srijut Tarini Charan Sarma, Srijut Bholanath Kakati, Maulvis Anwar Hossen and Fazlur Rahman, Srijut Tarini Charan Chaudhuri and Srijut Khageswar Barua : the absence of the names of Surma Valley officers is due to the fact that most of the temporarily-settled areas are under resettlement.

Progress of survey.

9. Appendices C and D show the progress of survey in each plains district and the plains portion of the Garo Hills up to the close of the year under review : the figures for the North-East Frontier are still not available. It will be seen from statement that for 27·42 per cent. of the area cadastral survey and preparation of records were completed on the 30th September 1917. These figures are exclusive of the area which has as yet been traversed only. As explained before, the total area of the province includes large stretches of waste land for which detailed maps and a record-of-rights are still unnecessary. The most important outstanding areas are the permanently-settled portions of Sylhet and Goalpara. In the former of these districts an area of about 96 square miles has been surveyed experimentally and a record-of-rights has been prepared for it. The present financial situation has postponed the survey of the rest of Sylhet and of Goalpara : these two districts will no doubt be taken up in the near future. Extension surveys were carried out in all the districts except Cachar, which is now under resettlement, and the Garo Hills. The largest area surveyed was 121 square miles in Kamrup. This area was, as explained last year, traversed in 1915-16, and the detailed survey was postponed to the year under report, owing to the employment of the staff in reclassification work in the previous season. Darrang came next with an area of 46·07 square miles : this also consists of villages traversed in 1915-16, but the traverse polygons were not received by the Deputy Commissioner till 1916-17. Further areas were traversed in this district in 1916-17 and these will furnish a basis for extension surveys for the next few seasons. In Goalpara 39 villages in the Eastern Duars with an area of 23·35 square miles were cadastrally surveyed, 31 being based on a theodolite traverse and 8 on plane-table boundaries. I am at a loss to explain why the latter should have been preferred to the theodolite and shall ask for an explanation : in addition, the local staff made theodolite traverses of 61 villages with an area of about 50 square miles. The area surveyed in Sibsagar (9 square miles) was on the basis of theodolite traverses by the Survey Department, while that in Lakhimpur (7 square miles) was traversed by the local agency with the plane-table. In the Garo Hills the Land Records staff assisted the Survey Department in carrying out a theodolite traverse of the plains mauzas, which will be surveyed cadastrally by the former.

No decision has yet been arrived at as to the form of the remuneration to be given to the Land Records staff who may be trained to the theodolite in the field when the Survey Department has worked off the present arrears of traverse work in the Assam Valley. This matter directly concerns the Survey Department and is under the consideration of the Superintendent of Survey, Eastern Circle, in charge of the Assam Traverse Party.

The work of reclassification of lands taken up since the resettlement in Kamrup and Sibsagar was completed during the year. This was a heavy task in most circles and the way in which it was carried through was creditable to the officers concerned.

Maintenance of Records.

10. The records were, as usual, maintained by the Land Records staff. Appendix E gives statistics of the mutations effected during the year. The percentage of mutations to the total number of *pattas* has fallen in the Surma Valley since last year because field work in Jaintia was completed. In Cachar no mutation work could be done for the reasons stated in paragraph 1. There have been very large increases in the total number of *pattas* in Kamrup and Sibsagar, but the number of mutations effected has not fluctuated very largely. The wholesome tendency towards the decrease of mutations by the regular procedure has continued.

The amount of mutation work done by Mauzadars is shown separately in the statement. It is satisfactory to note that a very fair share of the summary procedure mutations was done by them: the proportion of their work to the total number of mutations effected was largest in Darrang and lowest in Nowgong, where they did only about 20 per cent. of the total. It is reported from Kamrup that there is a tendency in that district for Mauzadars to effect mutations at their homes instead of in the field, and the matter is receiving the attention of the Deputy Commissioner.

State of Land Records.

11. I inspected Land Records work in all the circles of Kamrup, Nowgong and Mangaldai and one sub-circle in the Eastern Duars of Goalpara and the office work of Tezpur Circle: I also inspected the office work of the reclassification of land taken up since the resettlement in Sibsagar. In Kamrup my time was taken up entirely with the revision of classification. I also inspected the Ilam offices at Sylhet and Karimganj and gave instructions with regard to resettlement work in Patharkandi Circle of Karimganj. The reclassification work in Kamrup was done well and eventually that in Sibsagar was placed on right lines: there was considerable misapprehension in the latter district regarding the orders issued.

The condition of Land Records continues steadily to improve and errors are due more usually to inexperience on the part of new circle officers than to slackness. Allowance must always be made in the more backward tracts for a certain amount of inefficiency on the part of the local staff, but this is better than the employment of non-residents who will not live in their lots and so neglect the work. In these backward circles a Sub-Deputy Collector requires a considerable amount of tact and patience to get fair results. There is still a tendency to a want of control over the Kanungos, but I am glad to say that this is disappearing. On the other hand in some circles there appears to be a risk that too much attention is paid to a particular side of the work with the result that other equally important work is neglected. For instance while the running of check lines is a most important duty in areas which are fluctuating or are newly being opened, it is more important in the more settled areas to attend to mutation work. It is not intended to appraise the outturn solely by the number of lines run without regard to the necessity for them. It is not intended on the other hand that in fluctuating and newly-opened tracts check lines should be neglected. What I wish to emphasise is that the method of check and inspection must depend on the nature of the work in hand and this depends on local circumstances. More attention should be paid to the points for inspection prescribed in Appendix B to the Land Records Manual.

The system by which Mauzadars effect undisputed mutations in the field is on the whole working much better than I had anticipated. The main danger is that the circle officer may not discover until late in the season the amount of arrears left by the Mauzadar and that these should be carried on to another year and result in a large accumulation. The scheme seems in places to have the effect of making people who want mutation pay their revenue sooner than they would otherwise have done, but presumably there is no harm in this. So far as Land Records maintenance is concerned, I think that on the whole the present scheme is successful.

As Rai Bahadur Radha Kanta Handiqui went on leave preparatory to retirement at the end of February last and his successor has not yet been appointed, there was comparatively little inspection done by my Land Records Assistant. As the records are now on the whole in pretty fair condition and as there are many more

calls from the agricultural side of this department, I doubt if there will, in the future, be the need or the possibility of the Director's devoting so much time during the field season to Land Records work. I am extremely doubtful whether the roster of districts for inspection mentioned in last year's report can be maintained, though it was eventually accepted as suitable by the Chief Commissioner.

I append herewith a brief note by Rai Bahadur Radha Kanta Handiqui of his inspections during the year :—

During the year under report I was on privilege leave from the 23rd October to 14th November 1916 and again took combined leave for 2 years with effect from the 1st March 1917.

I was therefore in charge for only 125 days, out of which 63 days were spent on tour. I examined the records of 38 mandals and inspected the field work of 20 of them in the Tengakhat circle (Lakhimpur district) in charge of Sub-Deputy Collector Srijut Annada Charan Bhattacharjee and in the Nazira circle (Sibsagar district) in charge of Srijut Khageswar Barua. The records on the whole were found in fairly good condition but there was much room for improvement in the inspection of the field work by the Supervisor Kanungos.

Inspection of Land Records by the district staff.

12. The inspection of Land Records by the Deputy Commissioners has again been very satisfactory in the Assam Valley districts. All of them without exception devoted considerable attention to this work and checked the work of the staff both in the field and in office. In fact the general standard of inspection has risen so much that I think that Deputy Commissioners should not be expected to devote so much attention to the personal running of check lines. The main duty of the Deputy Commissioners is to see that the circle officers and their staffs carry out the rules : this will no doubt imply the running of a few independent lines or lines over circle officer's or kanungo's lines. But I am inclined to think that there is a danger of devoting too much attention to this particular method of check, as I have indicated above.

In the Surma Valley Cachar is under resettlement and no inspection by the district staff is required. In Sylhet the Jaintia parganas are also under resettlement, and the Deputy Commissioner was unable to spare time to inspect Land Records work in the other temporarily-settled areas.

Of the Subdivisional Officers Mr. Helme of Golaghat did the largest amount of checking, while the amount of inspection done by the Subdivisional Officers of Mangaldai and Sibsagar was fair. I think that the Subdivisional Officers of Barpeta and North Lakhimpur might have done a good deal more, but the defect may be due to the absence of second officers from their headquarters and to their consequent inability to tour. All the Subdivisional Officers of Sylhet are said to have done some Land Records work this year, but in spite of the remark in the last year's report the information regarding the work done furnished is somewhat meagre.

Survey marks.

13. Statement F in the appendix contains the results of the inspection of survey marks in the province. Though increasing attention has been paid to the verification of survey marks and correct figures have been insisted upon, in some cases the figures reported differ widely from year to year and render it difficult to accept them as accurate. The variations in the year under report are said to be due to the following causes :—

(1) Reporting of wrong figures from Goalpara in 1915-16.

(2) Recovery of lost marks.

(3) Erection of new marks on the boundaries of grazing reserves and extension survey villages.

(4) Erection of new marks in the area traversed by the Survey Department.

(5) Erection of new marks in connection with re-survey of villages.

(6) Washing away of marks by rivers, particularly in Sibsagar.

There has been very slight increase in the number of marks repaired as well as in those left unrepaired, while the number lost or left unvisited has practically remained unchanged. The percentage of both of these is still high : so far as my inspections give the clue, I am inclined to think that this is due mostly to the marks being still in thick jungle, where probably most of them have disappeared by now. On the whole much greater care is taken now with the inspection and maintenance of survey marks. In a number of cases reports by the Land Records staff to the Deputy Commissioner or Subdivisional Officer produce only a warning to the

people. I think that where these warnings are neglected the penal clauses of Regulation I of 1886 should be enforced: otherwise the staff becomes discouraged and neglects the work.

SECTION III.—MISCELLANEOUS.

Changes and reforms:

14. There were no important reforms during the year. The opinions of the Commissioners on the revised draft edition of the Land Records Manual were received and Babu Pramode Chandra Sen Gupta, Sub-Deputy Collector, was at my suggestion deputed for a month to complete the revision. The draft was subsequently approved by the Chief Commissioner. Some questions relating to village development and the acquisition of land by non-cultivators cropped up during the year and a good deal of discussion resulted in the amendation of rule 98 of the Land Records Manual as sanctioned in the Chief Secretary's letter No. 3483R., dated the 20th July 1917.

Charges and tour.

15. I was in charge of the Department for the whole year and spent 160 days on tour. My inspections have already been referred to.

Rai Radha Kanta Handiqui Bahadur, Land Records Assistant, was on privilege leave from the 23rd October to the 14th November 1916 and again went on combined leave for 2 years from the 1st March 1917. He was therefore in charge of his duties for 125 days only, out of which 63 days were spent on tour. My Personal Assistant, Babu Chandra Nath Sarma, has as usual been efficient and helpful.

Camp Gauhati,
The 3rd December 1917.

J. McSWINEY,
Director of Land Records and Agriculture, Assam.

APPENDIX A.

Progress of resettlement work in Assam during the year ending 30th September 1917.

Name of district.	Number of villages.										Expenditure during the year.	Remarks.
	Correction of maps and records.		Soil classification.		Record attestation.		Revenue attestation.		Submission of rate reports.			
	Programme.	Work done.	Programme.	Work done.	Programme.	Work done.	Programme.	Work done.	Programme.	Work done.		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
CACHAR	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,046	840	686	686	48,887	
Jaintia Parganas (SYLHET)	...	...	...	...	11	11	...	...	717	717	...	

APPENDIX B.

Work statement of Sub-Deputy Collectors for the year ending 30th September 1917.

Name of Circle or Subdivision.	Name of Sub-Deputy Collector.	Number of recorders in the circle.	Number of recorders whose papers were checked.	Number of villages in the circle.	Number of villages visited.	Number of check lines run.	Total length of check lines run.	Number of *chitha* entries tested.	Number of *chitha* entries found incorrect.	Number of theodolite station marks inspected.	Number of mutation and partition cases effected on the spot.	Number of mutation cases done in the office.	Name of Kanungo.	Character of each Kanungo's work during the year.	Remarks.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
							Miles.								
CACHAR ...	.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	.....	.....	Under resettlement.
SYLHET.															
Sadar ...	Maulvi Abdul Wahed ...	3	3	486*	140	27	7·75	350	80?	200	...	...	Chandra Kumar Basu	Fair.	
Karimganj ...	Babu Biraja Kanta Ghosh... and „ Tara Charan D esamukhya.	4	4	544*	112	13	2·97	1,562	...	341	75	28	Abdul Hosan ...	Satisfactory.	
													Padma Lochan Das ...	Fair.	
Patharkandi ...	Maulvi Mushrafulla ...	6	6	205	104	3	·83	933	114	110	1,000	28	Gopal Chandra Chatterjee.	Good.	
Sunamganj ...	Babu Dinesh Chandra De Purkaistha and „ Mathura Nath Das...	8	8	302*	8	4	·56	524	50	...	...	...	Golok Chandra Kar ...	Satisfactory.	
South Sylhet ...	„ Surendra Nath Chaudhuri.	5	5	929	216	28	3·28	162	13	392	173	...	Hridoy Chandra Ghosh	Good.	
Habiganj ...	Maulvi Dirajudin Ahmad ...	2	2	502*	17	20	4·00	75	12	27	...	...	Janaki Nath De ...	Fair.	

GOALPARA.															
Eastern Duars ...	Babu Krishna Behari Chowdhury.	41	41	645	309	...	60·71	2,964	154	358	174	5	Ratiram Das ...	Tolerable.	
													Jatraram Das ...		
													Brojo Mohan Das ...		
													Kamalnath Das ...		
KAMRUP.															
Gauhati Sadar circle.	Srijut Kamal Chandra Kagti from 1st October 1916 to 28th February 1917.	38	28	312	57	...	44·69	678	28	76	26	46	Kayaram Talukdar ...	Good.	
	Maulvi Nurul Hussain Hazarika from 10th March 1917 till close of the year.		32		107	16	609·28	1,317	29	258	533	46	Dhaniram Das ...	Fair.	
Chhaigaon Circle ...	Srijut Jagannath Bujar Barua	45	45	393	251	61	20·26	3,684	194	206	705	121	Sibram Talukdar ...	Fair.	
													Sarat Chandra Choudhury.	Fair.	
Kamalpur ...	Srijut Tarini Charan Chaudhury.	Not received.													
	Srijut Devananda Bharali ...	40	40	292	146	18	6·90	819	41	122	154	128	Pitambar Das ...	Satisfactory.	
													Jagannath Deka ...	Tolerable.	
Bangiya ...	„ Uma Nath Gohain	46	40	330	178	54	21·96	1,642	46	365	468	131	Rupram Choudhury ...	Good.	
	„ Troilokyeswar Bhuyan from 7th November 1916 to 28th February 1917.	46	27		63		209·83	1,196	...	69	59	35	Bhogirath Das ...		
Southern Nalbari ...	Babu Promode Chandra Sen Gupta.	32	32	210	210	20	9·69	6,365	186	414	506 +117	119	Durgaram Dutta ...	Worked well.	
													Dhaturam Tahbildar ...		
Northern Nalbari (Tihu).	Srijut Hari Prasad Das ...	27	27	136	128	10·89	871·29	2,798	77	316	191	163	Purnananda Chaudhury	Most satisfactory.	
													Ugranath Sarma ...	Good.	
Barpeta Circle ...	Babu Binode Behari Rai Barman.	20	20	257	216	64	...	3,160	139	133	20	20	Subharam Deka ...	Good and satisfactory.	
													Kutubuddin Ahmed ...		
Bojali Circle ...	Srija Achyutananda Pathak	52	52	387	303	53	23·56	7,242	136	599	166	72	Sitaram Das ...	Satisfactory.	
													Moniram Das ...		

* Revised.

APPENDIX B—*contd.*

Work statement of Sub-Deputy Collectors for the year ending 30th September 1917.

Name of Circle or Subdivision.	Name of Sub-Deputy Collector.	Number of recorders in the circle.	Number of recorders whose papers were checked.	Number of villages in the circle.	Number of villages visited.	Number of check lines run.	Total length of check lines run.	Number of *chitka* entries tested.	Number of *chitka* entries found incorrect.	Number of theodolite station marks inspected.	Number of mutation and partition cases effected on the spot.	Number of mutation cases done in the office.	Name of Kanungo.	Character of each Kanungo's work during the year.	Remarks.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
DARRANG.							Miles.								
Tezpur Circle ...	Srijut Tarini Charan Sarma	30	30	264	264	75	2,158·14	6,026	40	333	642	85	Phultungram Deka ...	Fairly satisfactory.	
													Ratikanta Saikia ...		
Behali Circle ...	„ Bepin Chandra Bordalai.	31	31	311	189	23	13·79	1,832	30	82	484	59	Jogeswar Hazarika ...	Satisfactory.	
													Muhammed Illias ...	Not satisfactory.	
Mangaldai Circle...	„ Ramananda Chowdhury	43	43	352	202	36	15	1,833	101	261	253	148	Moniram Saikia ...	Satisfactory.	
													Jojnoram Surma, offg.		
													Jagat Chandra Saharia		
Kalaigaon ...	„ Premadhar Gohain ...	42	42	569	335	52	15·4	4,190	187	283	79	4	Nomal Chandra Saharia	Satisfactory.	
													Rupram Das ...		
NOWGONG.													Harinath Deka, offg....		
Nowgong Circle ...	„ Bholanath Kakati ...	55	55	446	360	107	42·43	2,674	20	583	494	65	Chandra Kanta Bhuyan	Satisfactory.	
													Surat Chandra Bora ...		
													Bissen Sing Chhetri ...		
Kampur Circle ...	Maulvi Habibur Rahman ...	27	26	243	141	20	8·41	2,123	28	54	411	23	Srinath Bora ...	Satisfactory.	
													Bholanath Laskar ...		

Roha Circle ...	Maulvi Muhammad Anwar Hossain.	58	58	674	164	34	14·99	1,599	40	317	1,156	68	Dinanath Sarma ... Durgaram Das ... Kinaram Sarma ...	Good.
Samaguri Circle ...	Srijut Uma Charan Gohain ...	36	36	276	271	24	17·76	1,871	89	319	651	...	Govinda Chandra Saikia Hemaram Hazarika ...	Satisfactory.
SIBSAGAR.														
Jorhat Sadr Circle	Babu Srish Kumar Sen ...	29	29	251	181	76	23·70	1,947	124	613	672	79	Mohiram Das ... Sibnath Sarma ... Bathuram Sarma (offg.)	Fair.
Khangia Circle ...	Srijut Devanada Bharali	11	11	98	64	22	8·84	...	...	125	222	...	Kinaram Das ...	Very satisfactory.
	,, Tarini Charan Chaudhury from 6th March 1917.		11		90	16	7·302	845	19	93	84	82		
Moriani ,, ...	Babu Harkumar Das from 1st October 1916 to 10th August 1917.	37	37	353	159	33	20·13	4,526	259	390	490 +54	72	Mohan Chandra Sarma	On leave.
													Bathuram Saikia (offg.)	Worked well.
	Maulvi Talmizur Rahman from 11th August 1917.		37		120	...	...	1,380	233	251	...	11	Mohiram Datta ... Parsuram Barthakur...	Satisfactory. Improving.
Sibsagar ,, ...	Mahibuddin Ahmed ...	38	38	858	314	19	7·40	6,585	129	485	1,448	515	Umeswar Sarma ...	Satisfactory.
													Tarun Chandra Sarma	Not very satisfactory.
Nazira ,, ...	Srijut Khogeswar Barua ...	38	38	380	209	19	4·1	2,607	91	328	1,548	368	Gobinda Nath Rai Chaudhury. Amritram Chaudhury	Fairly satisfactory. Not satisfactory.
													Jajnoram Gogoi (offg.)	Satisfactory.
Golaghat ,, ...	Muhammad Muhibullah ...	40	40	335	280	...	21·58	10,141	350	382	108	153	Mohiram Barua ... Bhakatram Das ...	Satisfactory.
Kamargaon ...	Srijut Surendra Nath Gohain from 1st October 1916 to 14th April 1917.	17	17	192	153	...	25·5	1,333	106	216	242	40	Mohiram Dutta ...	Satisfactory.
	Maulvi Majidur Rahman from 14th June 1917.		9		23	...	62·69	...	...	...	25	15		

APPENDIX B—*concld.*

Work statement of Sub-Deputy Collectors for the year ending 30th September 1917.

Name of Circle or Subdivision.	Name of Sub-Deputy Collector.	Number of recorders in the circle.	Number of recorders whose papers were checked.	Number of villages in the circle.	Number of villages visited.	Number of check lines run.	Total length of check lines run.	Number of *chitha* entries tested.	Number of *chitha* entries found incorrect.	Number of theodolite station marks inspected.	Number of mutation and partition cases effected on the spot.	Number of mutation cases done in the office.	Name of Kanungo.	Character of each Kanungo's work during the year.	Remarks.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
LAKHIMPUR.							Miles.								
Dibrugarh Circle ...	Maulvi Fazlar Rahman ...	30	30	349	312	33	13·78	5,100	91	441	687	13	Jatiram Das ...	Satisfactory.	
													Pabitram Das ...		
Tengakhat ,, ...	Srijut Annada Charan Bhattacharjee.	34	34	551	355	23	10·57	2,442	70	367	141	35	Dinanath Gogoi ...	Did well.	
													Dimbeswar Gogoi ...		
Tinsukia ,, ...	Maulvi Syed Sheikhul Mosheik Chisti.	27	27	394	206	31	7·07	2,633	77	297	351	33	Gopal Chandra Rajkhoa	Worked well.	
													Lakheswar Das ...	Much improved.	
Banganadi ,, ...	Srijut Rameswar Saikia ...	20	20	270	238	86	30·20	5,204	61	576	600	43	Mohiram Das ...	Worked well.	
Subansiri ,, ...	Maulvi Nasib Ali Majumdar...	16	16	215	209	65	30·50	2,696	146	462	656	20	Sibnath Deka ...	Worked satisfactorily.	
Garo Hills ...	Maulvi Azizuddin Muhammad Chaudhury from 28th April 1917 to 14th July 1917.	13	9	383	30	26	9·2	296	23	...	25	...	Mohiram Das ...	Fair.	
	Babu Harkumar Das from 27th August 1917 to 30th September 1917.		12		25	...	...	205	15	40	209	...	Holiram Das ...		

APPENDIX C.

["Permanently-settled" in this table includes "revenue free."]

District.	Classification of district area (square miles).			Area for which a cadastral survey and record-of-rights are completed (square miles).			Area for which a cadastral survey and record-of-rights were being prepared in 1916-17 (square miles).			Area outstanding (square miles).			Remarks.
	Permanently-settled.	Not permanently-settled.	Total.	Permanently-settled.	Not permanently-settled.	Total.	Permanently-settled.	Not permanently-settled.	Total.	Permanently-settled.	Not permanently-settled.	Total.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Cachar	3	3,766	3,769	3	1,062	1,065	...	...	...	...	2,704	2,704	
Sylhet	3,825	1,535	5,360	...	851	851	...	1	1	3,825	703	4,528	
Goalpara	2,528	1,433	3,961	...	557	557	...	...	...	2,528	876	3,404	
Kamrup	53	3,805	3,858	53	2,376	2,429	...	...	...	...	1,429	1,429	
Darrang	3	3,398	3,406	3	1,192	1,200	...	...	...	...	2,206	2,206	
Nowgong	4	3,800	3,804	4	1,155	1,159	...	...	...	...	2,645	2,645	
Sibsagar	62	4,934	4,996	62	1,832	1,894	...	...	...	...	3,102	3,102	
Lakhimpur	3	3,977	3,980	3	735	738	...	...	...	...	3,242	3,242	
Garo Hills	...	3,140	3,140	...	62	62	...	...	...	...	3,078	3,078	
Total	6,486	29,808	36,294	133	9,822	9,955	...	1	1	6,353	19,985	26,338	

APPENDIX D.

Progress of Extension Surveys for the year ending 30th September 1917.

Name of district.	Total area of district (square miles).	Area surveyed by professional party (square miles).	Area surveyed in extension by village recorders.			Total area cadastrally surveyed (square miles).	Remarks.
			Previously (square miles).	During the year under report (square miles).	Total (square miles).		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Cachar ...	3,769	1,034	31	...	31	1,065	
Sylhet ...	5,380	545	304	2	306	851	
Goalpara ...	3,961	...	534	23	557	557	
Kamrup ...	3,858	1,966	342	121	463	2,429	
Darrang ...	3,406	1,045	109	46	155	1,200	
Nowgong ...	3,804	1,012	143	4	147	1,159	
Sibsagar ...	4,996	1,521	364	9	373	1,894	
Lakhimpur ...	3,980	269	462	7	469	738	
Garo Hills ...	3,140	...	62	...	62	62	
Total ...	36,294	7,392	2,351	212	2,563	9,955	

APPENDIX E.

Name of district.	Classification of *pattas*.	Total number of *pattas*.	Number of (*pattas* or portion of *pattas*) transfers.		Number of (*pattas* or portions of *pattas*) transfers by—				Area, in acres, transferred by—				Remarks.
			By summary procedure.	By regular procedure.	Sale or usufructuary mortgage.		Succession.	Other causes.	Sale of usufructuary mortgage.		Succession.	Other causes.	
					Under decree by civil court.	By private gift or contract.			Under decree of civil court.	By private gift or contract.			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Cachar ...	Periodic khiraj.	81,576	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Sylhet ...		52,421	869	36	517	78	255	45	1,320	45	646	212	
Goalpara ...		4,973	367	6	14	152	153	54	113	791	797	171	
Kamrup ...		260,910	3,255 4,576	366	105	2,847	4,039	1,206	213	4,549	10,858	1,546	By Sub-Deputy Collectors. By mauzadars.
Darrang ...		97,278	1,406 3,018	218	28	717 1,277	733 1,506	174 235	114	2,117 2,240	1,623 3,575	122 267	Ditto.
Nowgong ...		69,126	2,066 906	146	3	1,050	1,743	215	6	1,668	3,501	372	Ditto.
Sibsagar ...		174,080	4,321 4,842	1,063	61 3	2,508 1,977	2,792 2,575	523 285	236 9	3,773 4,634	5,176 8,193	1,061 413	Ditto.
Lakhimpur ...		61,281	1,890 1,769	94	12 2	775 446	1,093 602	39 19	25 29	1,270 3,031	2,610 3,810	167 54	Ditto.
Garo Hills ...		2,648	46 30	...	...	6 13	43 17	...	...	36 72	222 77	...	Ditto.
Total ...		794,273	30,544	1,929	747	11,846	15,546	2,845	2,065	24,226	40,504	4,315	
Cachar ...	Lakhiraj.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Sylhet ...		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Goalpara ...		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Kamrup ...		38	1 1	3	...	...	4	1	...	...	4	88	
Darrang ...		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Nowgong ...		4	...	...	...	...	...	...	167	...	...	...	
Sibsagar ...		81	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Lakhimpur ...		5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Garo Hills ...		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Total ...		128	2	3	...	...	4	1	167	...	4	88	
Cachar ...	Nisf-khiraj.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Sylhet ...		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Goalpara ...		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Kamrup ...		3,117	81 219	27	3	68	185	51	137	785	4,092	545	
Darrang ...		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Nowgong ...		24	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Sibsagar ...		491	1	1	...	...	2	...	...	...	100	...	
Lakhimpur ...		60	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Garo Hills ...		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Total ...		3,692	301	28	3	88	187	51	137	785	4,192	545	

APPENDIX F.

Condition of survey marks during the year ending 30th September 1917.

No.	Classification.	Total number of marks	Total number found in good order.	Number found not in good order.		Total of columns 4 and 5 in good order on 1st October 1916.	Number lost or left unvisited.
				Repaired.	Not repaired.		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	Theodolite stations—						
	(i) Stone prisms	15,790	13,203	943	360	14,146	1,284
	(ii) Square stones	26,296	19,476	162	597	19,638	6,061
	(iii) Other marks	95,432	48,500	21,877	10,427	70,377	14,628
2	Boundary marks of districts, etc. (other than theodolite stations)—						
	(i) Stone prisms	548	459	1	1	460	87
	(ii) Square stones	5,070	3,707	...	23	3,707	1,340
	(iii) Other marks	6,746	3,287	1,616	1,281	4,903	562
3	Boundary marks of private property (other than theodolite stations)—						
	(i) Stone prisms	5,796	5,509	46	50	5,555	191
	(ii) Square stones	15,196	13,598	134	59	13,732	1,405
	(iii) Other marks	7,928	6 529	334	369	6,863	696
4	Kanungo's mounds	19,288	8,912	2,872	2,684	11,784	4,820
	Total	198,090	123,180	27,985	15,851	151,165	31,074

APPENDIX G.

Statement showing resident and non-resident Recorders on the 30th September 1917.

Name of district.	Number of resident mandals and patwaris.	Number of non-resident mandals and patwaris.	Number of mandals and patwaris who have been exempted by superior orders.	Total.	Number of mandals and patwaris who have become resident or been exempted during the year under report.	Remarks.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Cachar	61	21	17	99	...	
Sylhet	50	15	4	69	...	
Goalpara	26	12	3	41	2	
Kamrup	171	37	93	301	4	
Darrang	81	30	35	146	1	
Nowgong	128	12	38	178	...	
Sibsagar	138	23	49	210	4	
Lakhimpur	119	5	3	127	1	For want of qualified resident mandals, non-resident men were appointed as a temporary measure
Garo Hills	4	8	...	12	...	
North-East Frontier ...	...	4	...	4	...	
Total ...	778	167	242	1,187	12	

APPENDIX H.

Statement showing punishments imposed on Recorders during the year under report.

District.	Total number of recorders fined.	Fines imposed on recorders.				Fines subsequently remitted.	Net amount of fines imposed.
		Absence without leave.	Delay in submitting papers.	Other reasons.	Total.		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
		Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
Cachar ...	96	...	...	73 4 0	73 4 0	...	73 4 0
Sylhet ...	9	..	12 0 0	13 4 6	25 4 6	2 8 0	22 12 6
Goalpara ...	18	...	18 8 0	3 0 0	21 8 0	0 8 0	21 0 0
Kamrup ...	258	123 12 0	171 8 0	285 8 0	583 12 0	2 8 0	581 4 0
Darrang ...	34	5 0 0	10 0 0	72 0 0	87 0 0	...	87 0 0
Nowgong ...	125	94 8 0	33 0 0	34 0 0	161 8 0	...	161 8 0
Sibsagar ...	165	151 4 9	132 0 0	153 0 0	436 4 9	...	436 4 9
Lakhimpur ...	58	65 8 0	3 8 0	6 0 0	75 0 0	...	75 0 0
Garo Hills ...	...	0 12 0	...	11 0 0	11 12 0	...	11 12 0
Total ...	773	443 12 9	380 8 0	651 0 6	1,475 5 3	5 8 0	1,469 13 3

APPENDIX I.

Statement showing travelling allowance drawn by Supervisor Kanungos and Recorders.

	Travelling allowance drawn by Supervisor Kanungos.	Travelling allowance drawn by Recorders.
	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
Cachar	50 10 0	83 1 6
Sylhet	280 7 6	560 10 9
Goalpara	55 7 0	66 8 6
Kamrup	370 0 0	1,194 0 0(*a*)
Darrang	...	213 0 0
Nowgong	125 7 6	420 6 6
Sibsagar	68 5 0	347 0 0(*a*)
Lakhimpur	159 5 0	482 11 6
Garo Hills	47 1 0	...
Total ...	1,156 11 0	3,107 3 9

(*a*) Including halting allowance.

A. S. P. O. (R & A.) No. 64 -200 -13-2-1918 -A. E. R.

Resolution on the Survey and Settlement Report, Assam, for the year ending the 30th September 1917.

Extract from the Proceedings of the Chief Commissioner of Assam in the Revenue Department, No. 688R., dated the 11th February 1918.

READ—

The Survey and Settlement Report, Assam, for the year ending the 30th September 1917.

RESOLUTION.

THE temporary arrangement by which the Assam surveys were placed under the control of the Superintendent, Eastern Circle, Survey of India, as an experimental measure, was, maintained during the year. The Chief Commissioner is glad to notice that it was attended with the same complete success as in the preceding year and he takes this opportunity of again acknowledging his indebtedness to Lieutenant-Colonel Crichton, C.I.E., for his most capable management of the department.

The work of the Traverse Party consisted mainly in the traverse surveys of extension villages and in the relaying of *thak* and other boundaries. It was decided that in future the permanent demarcation of boundaries surveyed by a traverse party shall be entrusted to it. The Drawing Office printed 145,674 copies of maps, of which 59,909 copies were for the Government of Bengal and 85,765 copies for Assam, including jurisdiction maps for 21 thanas and 1 circle. Survey gazetteers of the Sylhet and Goalpara districts were published during the year, and a most useful index map was prepared for the annual Survey Report showing the surveys which have been completed up to date by the Survey Department in Assam. As more than half the students who have passed the Mandals' Certificate Examination from the Survey School are still unemployed, it has been decided for the present to limit the number of new students who are not in Government service admitted yearly to ten and to use the school chiefly for the further training of the existing staff of recorders. The Chief Commissioner has heard with pleasure of the good work done by the officers subordinate to Lieutenant-Colonel Crichton and has noted the names of those specially commended.

2. The chief settlement operations in progress during the year were the resettlement of the district of Cachar and the Jaintia Parganas in Sylhet and the survey and preparation of a record-of-rights for the permanently-settled area in three selected parganas of the latter district. In Cachar the assessment proposals for 6 groups, namely, Hailakandi, Katigora, Silchar, Chatla, Banraj, and Vernerpur, were sanctioned by the Local Administration and revenue attestation was completed before the close of the settlement year except in Vernerpur. In the Jaintia Parganas revenue attestation was completed in the Gowainghat group and assessment reports were submitted for the Jaintiapur and Kanairghat groups. The Chief Commissioner is pleased to acknowledge the excellent work of Mr. Scott and his assistants, particularly Rai Sahib Debendra Kumar Mukherjee, during the settlement operations in Cachar and the Jaintia Parganas which are now approaching completion. It has been characterized throughout by a high level of care and thoroughness which reflects the greatest credit on all concerned. The experimental settlement operations in the permanently-settled area in Sylhet were finished in August 1917, with the exception of the disposal of cases under sections 105 and 106 of the Bengal Tenancy Act, the hearing of which was begun by a Munsiff in November. It is much to be regretted that the financial position is such that the extension of the settlement to other permanently-settled areas of the district is unlikely in the near future. The valuable experience gained, however, from the good work of Mr. Gimson and his assistants, for which they are to be commended, will undoubtedly be of the greatest assistance when settlement operations on a large scale in the permanently-settled areas of Sylhet are eventually undertaken.

The question of the resettlement of the four plains mauzas of the Garo Hills district was considered and it was decided that the term of the periodic *pattas* issued in mauzas VI and VII should be extended for another two years or till the completion

of the resurvey of the mauzas by the local land records staff, and that the annual settlement of mauzas V and VIII should remain in force till the resurvey is completed.

3. As promised in paragraph 5 of the Chief Commissioner's Resolution on the last year's report, the question of the roster of inspections of Land Records work by the Director of Land Records and Agriculture was considered by the Chief Commissioner and it was decided to continue the existing practice under which each district should be inspected by the Director of Land Records every second year and by his Assistant in the intervening years. The Director of Land Records has expressed some doubts whether this roster system can be maintained now that so much of his time is absorbed by the Agricultural side of his department. If he finds that this is the case, he is at liberty to submit revised proposals.

4. The Director of Land Records' remarks in his last report on the desirability of exercising discretion in enforcing the orders for the appointment of resident recorders were considered in consultation with the Commissioners and rule 5 of the Land Records Manual was amended so as to allow Deputy Commissioners power to grant exemptions in cases in which they are satisfied that to compel a recorder to reside in his lot would cause undue hardship.

5. An enquiry was made with reference to the statement in last year's report that in some districts mauzadars are inclined to effect mutations at their homes instead of in the villages. The Commissioner, Assam Valley Districts, reported that the practice existed, though not to any great extent, and he has issued instructions to the Deputy Commissioners which should put a stop to it.

The wholesome decrease in mutations by the regular procedure continued and a substantial share of the summary mutations was done by mauzadars.

6. The Chief Commissioner learns with satisfaction that on the whole the work of the Circle Sub-Deputy Collectors continued to improve and that good progress was made in correcting the errors in the record. Two hundred and twelve square miles were surveyed in extension during the year.

7. The inspection of the Land Records work by the Deputy Commissioners generally was again very satisfactory. This is a subject on which Sir Archdale Earle laid special stress some years ago, and he is very gratified to find that there has been such a marked improvement.

8. The Chief Commissioner is indebted to Mr. McSwiney for his efficient administration of the Department, and he has read with pleasure the names of the officers who have been specially mentioned by the Director as deserving commendation.

ORDER.—Ordered that this Resolution and the Reports of the Superintendent, Eastern Circle, Survey of India, in charge Assam Surveys, and the Director of Land Records be published in the *Assam Gazette*.

By order of the Chief Commissioner of Assam,

J. E. WEBSTER,

Chief Secretary to the Chief Commissioner of Assam.

A. S. P. O. (R. & Agr.) No. 64—200—12-2-1918—A.U. A

REPORT

ON THE

SURVEY AND SETTLEMENT OPERATIONS

IN

ASSAM,

FOR THE

Year ending 30th September 1918.

SHILLONG:

PRINTED AT THE ASSAM SECRETARIAT PRINTING OFFICE.

1919.

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ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE

SURVEY OPERATIONS IN ASSAM

For the year 1917-18.

No. 1893—XIII-5, dated Shillong, the 15th November 1918.

From—Lieutenant-Colonel C. L. ROBERTSON, C.M.G., R.E., Officiating Superintendent, Eastern Circle, Survey of India, in charge Assam Surveys,

To—The Chief Secretary to the Hon'ble the Chief Commissioner of Assam.

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report on the Provincial Survey Department of Assam for the Survey year 1917-18.

1. The Department was under the control of Colonel R. T. Crichton, I.A., up to 29th March 1918, when he proceeded on combined leave for 8 months and I took over from him with effect from the 30th March 1918.

I was absent on privilege leave from 8th May to 19th June, 1918 during which period Lieutenant-Colonel A. Mears, I.A., acted for me.

2. Mr. A. B. Smart, Deputy Superintendent, remained in charge of the Assam Traverse Party and Drawing Office throughout the year under report, while Mr. B. C. Gasper (Extra Assistant Commissioner), an Assistant to the Officer in charge, obtained a commission in the Indian Army Reserve of Officers with effect from the 23rd July 1918 and left the Survey Department on the 9th August 1918. He has not yet been replaced.

The need for an assistant in the Traverse Party is felt and my proposal asking for an officer of the same status will be submitted to Government separately in due course.

REPORT ON THE WORK OF ASSAM TRAVERSE PARTY.

I attach hereto a list of survey operations with brief details of the work done by the Party.

Technical descriptive details are not given but they are, as usual filed in my office, and can be referred to at any time.

The differences between progress accomplished in the matter of extension surveys, as shewn in this list, and the programme proposed, as set forth in my No. 1633—I-8 of 8th October last, is as under, and is due to the causes noted against each item of work.

Progress unaccomplished.	Explanation.
Extension surveys.	
Darrang district—9 villages	Sickness and the need for transferring one of the traversers to the work on Tezpur town.
Garo Hills district—3 villages	Death of one of the two traversers employed and then to floods.
Sylhet district—4 villages	Delay by the District staff in demarcation.
Nowgong district—3 villages	The traversing of these villages was excluded from the programme subsequently to its submission, at the request of the Deputy Commissioner.
Sibsagar district—6 villages	Early setting in of the rains at the end of the survey field season.

The field books of the mandals employed on the extension surveys in the Goalpara district (item 8 of the list) were submitted to the Assam Traverse Party to set up, prove and supply plots. The traverses of all were set up and proved but plots of 18 village circuits in the Chirang Circle have still to be prepared and supplied.

The re-traversing of Tezpur town (item 10 of the list) was not included in the programme for the year as it was asked for by the Director of Land Records and Agriculture, Assam, only in April last.

The position of the Patharia-Partabgarh Hills boundary in the Sylhet district (item 12 of the list), as demarcated by the District staff, was found to be about 4 chains west of the Thak boundary; it fails moreover to link up at its extremities with the Thak boundary running north and south of it. The matter is under reference to the Deputy Commissioner, Sylhet.

A traverser was detailed during the year to point out the boundary marks which had been erected by the Traverse Party in 1911-12 and 1914-15 along the Kamrup-Khuntaghat boundary under instructions received in the Local Administration's letter No. 5345R. of 7th November 1917 (item 21 of the list). Owing to this boundary lying largely in an unoccupied area over which there was a very heavy jungle growth, for the clearance of which the mandal deputed to meet the traverser was able to make no provision, the work had to be abandoned. The Officer in charge, Assam Traverse Party, has however arranged to meet the Deputy Commissioners, Kamrup and Goalpara districts next season on the ground, and to go over the boundary with them, accompanied by representatives of the Zamindars concerned.

The following miscellaneous items of work were also carried out :—

(*a*) Copies of the traverse *data* of the Patharia-Langla and Patharia-Partabgarh boundaries, as traversed by the Traverse Party, were supplied to the Deputy Commissioner, Sylhet.

(*b*) The surveys and records of 67 grants surveyed by Approved Surveyors were checked during the year under report.

With regard to the maps prepared by the Approved Surveyors, I have to bring to notice the fact that the traverses on which these are based are not always satisfactory. This is particularly the case with work done by Messrs. Jadu Nath Baruah and Sons. Original field books when called for in connection with the checking of their maps are said to have been lost. I am suggesting to the District Officers that they take action under the powers which they possess on cases of this kind which I may bring to their notice in future and shall myself refuse to countersign maps with the accuracy of whose preparation I am not satisfied.

Inspection of Cadastral Surveys.

I have not been able to inspect any Cadastral Survey carried out by the Settlement Officers under the Director of Land Records and Agriculture, Assam.

Drawing Office.

(*a*) *Reproduction Section.*

The total cut-put of the Assam Drawing Office was 42,958 copies of maps against 59,909 copies for Bengal and 85,765 copies for Assam in the previous year.

I give below the details of the maps printed district by district :—

District.	Village maps.	Miscellaneous maps.	Jurisdiction maps.	District maps.
1	2	3	4	5
Cachar	22,290	610	...	20
Darrang	...	3,016	...	...
Garo Hills	...	...	...	...
Goalpara	320	166	...	...
Kamrup	4,560	125	300	...
Khasi and Jaintia Hills	...	8,327	...	...
Lakhimpur	...	660	...	...
Lushai Hills	...	75	...	...
Naga Hills	...	...	...	...
Nowgong	90	6	...	...

District.	Village Maps.	Miscellaneous maps.	Jurisdiction maps.	District maps.
1	2	3	4	5
Sibsagar	820	18	...	...
Sylhet	...	630	150	60
Manipur	...	40	...	...
Miscellaneous	...	675	...	...
Total	28,080	14,348	450	80

The total recoveries for reproduction work amounted to Rs. 1,797 against Rs. 11,303 for last year.

The decrease in recovery and smaller outturn in this section is mainly due to the absence of a demand from Bengal for the execution of work. The demand from the districts of Assam was also less this year than it was last year.

(*b*)—*Mapping Section.*

The following jurisdiction maps of Assam have been printed and distributed :—

1. Kamrup	2 circles—300 copies.
2. Sylhet...	1 thana—150 „
Total	450

In the previous year 21 thanas and 1 circle were completed, 3,892 copies were printed and distributed.

I am enquiring into the causes of the smaller outturn of work in this section and will take steps to increase it, should my enquiries show that it is not justified.

The School maps should have been finished last year but they have not yet been printed and supplied. Some maps were, however, printed and copies will be supplied to the Director of Public Instruction, Assam, shortly. I am enquiring into the causes of delay in completion and shall take such action as may seem advisable.

(*c*)—*Record Section.*

One thousand two hundred and sixty seven original Cadastral and Topographical maps were received and racked in the record room. Two hundred and fourty one traces for reproduction were also received.

Assam Land Surveying School.

Mr. G. C. Bardalai was the Principal of the school throughout the year under report.

The officers' training class was opened in the beginning of November as usual and 2 Extra Assistant Commissioners and 2 Sub-Deputy Collectors from the Assam Valley joined on different dates.

They were trained in survey only, and, under orders from the Local Administration, were not given settlement training.

The period of training in survey was reduced from 3 to 2 months.

Of these four officers, one Extra Assistant Commissioner and one Sub-Deputy Collector qualified, while the remaining two could not pass the test.

The special class was opened in November and lasted for 3 months. Five students were admitted. They were examined at the end of the session. Four passed while on failed to qualify.

One Syntang Road Moharrir of Jowai Subdivision was also deputed by the Deputy Commissioner, Khasi and Jaintia Hills, to receive training in Chain Surveying from the 13th February 1918 to 31st May 1918, and obtained the necessary certificate in Surveying.

Under arrangements made with the Deputy Commissioner, Kamrup, 8 mandals of his district, not holding mandals' certificates from the Survey School, were given special training in map drawing for about ten weeks in March, April and May 1918. Their work was examined and passed by me and they were given certificates of proficiency in map drawing.

In consultation with the Director of Land Records and Agriculture, Assam, it has been decided to hold a similar class next year and the Deputy Commissioners of all districts have been addressed on the subject.

The Ordinary Mandal or Patwari class was opened on the 2nd January 1918, when 28 candidates from the districts noted below were admitted :—

Kamrup...	11
Darrang	7
Cachar	2
Goalpara	1
Sylhet	1
Garo Hills	1
Nowgong	5
Total	28

Of these, 23 were passed as successful and 5 were disqualified. The result is satisfactory.

The training of less efficient mandals was not taken up during the year under report as the question of the period of training was not decided.

The class will begin from the 1st November 1918 and it is expected that mandals will be sent by all Deputy Commissioners for the necessary training.

The result of the experiment will be reported to Government in due course.

School buildings.

The Hindu Hostel with its cook-shed and 3 masters' quarters were completed during the year.

The Cachari Hostel is under construction and some additions are also being made to the Principal's quarters.

Inspections.

I have not inspected the Assam Survey School at Jhalukbari.

I inspected the Traverse Party and Drawing Office here once or twice.

Services of officers.

Mr. A. B. Smart, Deputy Superintendent, in charge Assam Traverse Party and Drawing Office has controlled the work of which he has charge to my satisfaction during the year under report.

From the little I have seen of him since I have controlled the Provincial Surveys I consider Mr. B. C. Gasper, Extra Assistant Commissioner, has rendered satisfactory service in his post of Assistant to the Officer in charge of the Party and Drawing Office. The latter reports very highly of him. His removal from the Provincial Surveys on appointment to the Indian Army Reserve of Officers was, I consider, a distinct loss to the Department.

Mr. G. C. Bardalai, B.Sc., Extra Assistant Commissioner, has continued to carry out his duties as Principal of the Assam Land Surveying School to my entire satisfaction. He is, I consider, an energetic and resourceful officer and I endorse my predecessor's anticipation of the beneficial effects which may be expected from his influence on the standard of technical training of the school.

Pandit Mam Raj Sharma, my Head Clerk and Head Accountant has worked hard during the time he has been under me. I have found him of much assistance in dealing with a systemof administration which in many respects is strange to me.

List of Survey Operations (1917-18).

Serial No.	District.	Nature of work with brief description.	Present state of completion.	For Government or Private Agency.
1	2	3	4	5
1	Kamrup ...	Extension Traverse for Cadastral Survey.	19 villages traversed, area 78·10 square miles. Plots will be supplied shortly.	Government.
2	Darrang ...	Ditto ditto ...	60 villages traversed, area 74·96 square miles.	Ditto.
3	Garo Hills ...	Ditto ditto ...	150 villages traversed, area 52·42 square miles.	Ditto.
4	Sylhet ...	Ditto ditto ...	14 villages traversed, area 12 square miles.	Ditto.
5	Nowgong ...	Ditto ditto ..	25 villages traversed, area 22·32 square miles.	Ditto.
6	Sibsagar ...	Ditto ditto ...	22 villages traversed, area 30·41 square miles.	Ditto.
7	Lakhimpur ...	Ditto ditto ...	41 villages traversed, area 12·4 square miles.	Ditto.
8	Goalpara ...	Ditto ditto ...	37 villages traversed, area 37·94 square miles, by mandal agency in the Sidli and Chirang Circles.	Ditto.
9	Sylhet ...	Traversing of Dohaliya Hills, Block "B."	20·3 linear miles of boundary were traversed. (An offset field book of boundaries of present possession was prepared and supplied.)	Ditto.
10	Darrang ...	Re-traversing of Tezpur town ...	4 blocks 8·6 linear miles were traversed and the traverse stations marked by stones.	Ditto.
11	Sylhet ...	Demarcation of the western boundary of Dohaliya Hills.	4 linear miles of boundary were demarcated.	Ditto.
12	Ditto ...	Survey of the boundary of Pathania-Partabgarh Hills.	Temporary demarcation according to Thak No. 4963 completed. Permanent demarcation not yet undertaken.	Ditto.
13	Ditto ...	Permanent demarcation of the Sylhet-Hill Tipperah boundary.	Permanent demarcation not yet undertaken pending a decision on objections raised by the State Darbar.	Ditto.
14	Ditto ...	Permanent demarcation of Thak No. 1743.	These were excluded from the programme under orders by Local Administration conveyed under letter No. 6013R., dated the 19th December 1917.	Ditto.
15	Ditto ...	Traversing and surveying of the Patharia-Langla boundary.		
16	Goalpara ...	Permanent demarcation of portions of the Guma, Ghurla, Khuntaghat and Sidli boundaries.	No orders yet received. The whole of these boundaries were demarcated and the demarcation was inspected during the season by the Deputy Commissioner, Goalpara and the Officer, in charge Assam Traverse Party and Drawing Office, accompanied by the officials of Gauripur, Parbatjoar and Bijni Estates.	Partly Government and partly private.
17	Ditto ...	Checking of the Mechpara-Chapar boundary.	Not carried out for want of traversing establishment.	Private.
18	Ditto ...	Demarcation of the Chapar-Mechpara and Gauripur boundaries.	Not taken up as the parties to the disputes did not come to terms.	Ditto.
19	Ditto ...	Permanent demarcation of III Sidli-Chirang boundary.	The permanent demarcation was not taken up owing to the decision of the Deputy Commissioner, Goalpara, that it is not at present necessary.	Government.
20	Ditto ...	Survey of the Brahmaputra and the Godadhar rivers, near Dhubri.	55 square miles were surveyed and copies of the new maps were supplied to the officers of the Public Works Department interested.	Government (Public Works Department).
21	Kamrup ...	Pointing out of boundary marks along the Kamrup-Khuntaghat boundary.	*Vide* remarks in the report ...	Government.

Dated Shillong,
The 15th November 1918.

C. L. ROBERTSON, *Lieutenant-Colonel, R.E.,*
Offg. Superintendent, Eastern Circle, in charge Assam Surveys.

No. 6269.

FROM

J. McSWINEY, ESQ., M.A., I.C.S.,
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF LAND RECORDS AND AGRICULTURE, ASSAM,

To

THE CHIEF SECRETARY TO THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER OF ASSAM.

Dated Shillong, the 13th December 1918.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to submit a report on the work of the Department of Land Records and Settlement in Assam for the year ending the 30th September 1918.

I have the honour to be,

SIR,

Your most obedient Servant,

J. McSWINEY,

Director of Land Records and Agriculture, Assam.

REPORT

ON THE

DEPARTMENT OF LAND RECORDS IN ASSAM

FOR THE

Year ending the 30th September 1918.

PART I.—RESETTLEMENT.

1. The resettlement operations of the district continued till the 31st December 1917 under Mr. W. L. Scott, who retained the charge of the settlement in addition to his duties as Deputy Commissioner of Cachar. The four Assistant Settlement Officers mentioned in the previous report remained on the Settlement staff till that date, when the extra staff was dispersed and the office was formally closed. As in the latter part of the preceding year, the detail work was practically in charge of Rai Sahib Debendra Kumar Mukherji, Assistant Settlement Officer.

Cachar.

The programme consisted of (1) the revenue attestation of the Vernerpur group and of tea-garden lands, (2) preparing the final records, (3) fairing of *chithas* and (4) the copying of *jamabandis*. The new rates of revenue for tea and waste lands in tea gardens were sanctioned in the Chief Secretary's letter No. 946R., dated the 27th February 1918, and the calculation and attestation of revenue of these areas were carried out without delay. The other items of the programme were also completed except the copying of the local periodic *jamabandi*, which has since been done under the Deputy Commissioner by the ordinary Land Records staff of the district. Rai Sahib Debendra Kumar Mukherji repeatedly inspected the work and facilitated its completion.

The final report on the resettlement was submitted by Mr. Scott on the 11th September last and was forwarded to the Local Administration with my letter No. 503—4649, dated the 24th September 1918.

The financial result of the resettlement has been an increase of Rs. 1,66,993 or 31·77 per cent. in the revenue assessed on all kinds of *mirasdari* lands in the district; this, however, will not be reached until after the 15th year of the settlement owing to the grant of deferred enhancements. The immediate increase of revenue is Rs. 1,47,188. The total net cost of the proceedings was Rs. 2,41,041.

Mr. Scott has mentioned the names of his Assistants with commendation. Rai Sahib Debendra Kumar Mukherji, who is now my Land Records Assistant, gave a further proof of his worth. Babu Mahendra Kumar Dam justified his promotion to the Provincial Civil Service and Maulvi Muhammad Ali and Babu Kamini Kumar Datta have proved themselves sound officers. Mr. Scott's assessment proposals were clear and to the point, and his interesting final report shows a thorough grasp of local conditions.

2. The resettlement of these parganas was also under the supervision of Mr. W. L. Scott, assisted, as in the previous years, by four Assistant Settlement Officers including Rai Sahib Debendra Kumar Mukherji. The work to be done comprised (1) revenue attestation of Jaintiapur and Kanairghat groups, (2) completion of the new records, (3) submission of proposals for the re-assessment of tea and waste lands in tea estates and of village fisheries and (4) distribution of final pattas. The new rates of assessment in the above two groups were sanctioned in the Chief Commissioner's Resolution No. 25R., dated the 4th January 1918, and the outstanding work of revenue attestation in these

Sylhet—(i) Jaintia parganas.

groups, as well as all work connected with the preparation of the final records, was completed before the 31st May 1918, on which date the office was formally closed. The Settlement Officer's proposals for the re-assessment of tea-garden lands were submitted in November 1917 and the proposed rates were published for criticism in January 1918. There was, therefore, some delay in the revenue attestation of these lands and the rates were eventually sanctioned in the Revenue Department letter No. 3813R., dated the 27th September 1918. The distribution of final pattas was held up in a few places by their non-acceptance as a mild protest against any enhancement of revenue. Very little work was left after the 31st May 1918 to be completed by the ordinary Land Records staff of the district, and at my inspection early in August I found that the completed records had all been sent to the district record-room.

The final report written by Mr. Scott in his spare time has just been received. An interesting result of this settlement is the increase in the number of pattas and fields. In Kanairghat Circle alone these numbers have increased from 17,220 and 139,425 to 29,216 and 154,566 or by 69 and 11 per cent. respectively: this is due to the breaking up of *ejmali* pattas dating back for long periods, which bound together large numbers of people without any mutual connection and made the collection of revenue both difficult for Government and irksome to the people.

The staff, including Babu Girish Chandra Nandi Mazumdar and Babu Surendra Nath Datta, were all keen and energetic throughout the work and the successful manner in which they brought the operations to a close in a difficult country and amongst a suspicious people deserves commendation.

Sylhet—(ii) Dassana area.

The only work remaining to be done in connection with this experiment was the trial of suits under sections 105 and 106 of the Bengal Tenancy Act (Act VIII of 1885), which was taken up by Babu Phani Bhusan Banerji, Munsif, on deputation from Bengal. He was appointed Settlement Officer and joined his duties on the 17th November 1917. The number of cases was not large, but as most of the plaints and applications were not properly drawn up and were insufficiently stamped, he spent some time in getting the plaints amended and in realizing the deficit court fees. He finished the work and submitted his report on it by the 15th April 1918. This completed the final report, the main part of which was already drawn up by Mr. Gimson, and it was submitted to the Local Administration with my letter No. 4661, dated the 25th September 1918. One of the objects of this experiment was to frame an estimate of the cost of a survey and settlement of the district. But the data furnished by the operations for this purpose were not sufficient in themselves. However, with the help of the system of estimating adopted in Bengal, I have since the close of the year submitted an estimate for operations covering the whole district. Babu Phani Bhusan Banerji, Munsif, displayed great care and accuracy in his work.

Other settlement work.

3. The reclassification of the lands taken up after the last resettlement in Nowgong district was undertaken and completed during the year and a report on the work from the Deputy Commissioner is now awaited. This entailed a very considerable addition to the work of the district staff. Extension surveys, covering 367 square miles in all, were carried out by local agency in all the plains district except Lakhimpur and in the plains portion of the Garo Hills. Besides the above, the Land Records staff of the Garo Hills resurveyed an area of 15·6 square miles on a theodolite traverse: the traverse party nearly completed its work in these mauzas and the cadastral survey will as far as possible be pushed on during the present season.

In Lakhimpur the settlement of Tinsukia urban area is still pending, the assessment report having been returned by the Local Administration for further information.

PART II.—LAND RECORDS.

Mandals and patwaris.

4. In paragraph 4 of the last report mention was made of the necessity for adding 4 patwaris in the Jaintia parganas in Sylhet and 6 mandals in Darrang, where a large extension of cultivation has taken place. Sanction was accorded during the year to these additions and the sanctioned cadre of recorders stood on the 30th September 1918 as 241 in the first, 712 in the second and 247 in the third grade.

While inspecting in the Eastern Duars of Goalpara in February 1917 I found that owing to extensions of cultivation some of the lots in mauzas Bijni and Chirang had become unmanageable. The Deputy Commissioner's proposal to increase the staff by 4 mandals, which was submitted during the year, has been sanctioned since

its close. Owing to the influx of settlers from Mymensingh in Bengal to the river mauzas of Nowgong district and the consequent need for extension survey, the Deputy Commissioner asked for the creation of 3 new lots in his district. But as the present pressure of work is partly due to the reclassification of post-settlement *dags*, these 3 posts have been only temporarily sanctioned pending the completion of reclassification work, when we shall be in a position to know how many extra men will be required permanently.

There has been a further fall in the number of resident recorders *viz.*, from 778 to 771, but the number exempted from residence has increased from 242 to 255. The districts of Darrang and Lakhimpur are responsible for the decrease, which has been partially counterbalanced by slight increases in most of the other districts. In Lakhimpur a large number of recorders, who have only temporary sheds in their lots and do not reside permanently there, have now rightly been transferred from the category of residents to that of non-residents. In Darrang the temporary appointment of non-resident men in vacancies caused by deaths, etc., coupled with the creation of 3 new lots where no qualified local candidates are available has been the cause of the decrease. Six out of nine non-resident recorders in Goalpara reside within 2 miles of their lots and qualify for exemption under rule 6 of the Land Records Manual. In Kamrup the number of residents was reduced by the want of resident candidates, especially in the submontane and *Chapari* tracts, where dead or dismissed men had to be replaced by non-resident. In the Garo Hills the backward condition of the people renders it difficult to secure suitable candidates and it will be some time before resident recorders can be secured for all the lots.

During the year 16 candidates for lots where there is a dearth of local candidates or where the candidates are heirs of old resident men who are about to retire, were granted free studentships in the Gauhati Survey School.

Supervisor Kanungos.

5. The sanctioned cadre of Supervisor Kanungos was strengthened by the addition of one post in Sylhet, one in the Garo Hills and one in Kamrup, all in the second grade on Rs. 30 per mensem. The need for the first two additions was mentioned in last year's report. In Barpeta subdivision of Kamrup the increase of cultivation in Bijni mauza, the gradual emergence or draining of lands flooded in the 1897 earthquake in mauza Bhabanipur-Hastinapur and the settlement of immigrant Muhammadans in that mauza and mauza Rupasi rendered the formation of a new sub-circle in Bojali Circle an absolute necessity. Extension of cultivation and the inconvenient distribution of circles in Golaghat subdivision have led to the submission by the Deputy Commissioner, Sibsagar, of a proposal to establish a new sub-circle in Kamargaon circle of his district. This is under consideration.

General remarks on the work of the Land Records staff of the province will be found in paragraph 11.

Punishments.

6. During the year fines of Rs. 1,453-14-10 were imposed on 830 recorders. Details district by district are given in Appendix H. The average of the fines works out to Re. 1-11-11, a little lower than in the preceding year, while the number of men fined has been higher. Increases have occurred under the heads "Absence without leave" and "Other reasons". Under the former head the increase has been most marked in Kamrup and Lakhimpur and is due to efforts to secure regular attendance during the recess. The large decrease under the head "Delay in submission of papers" particularly in Sibsagar indicates, it is hoped, improvement in punctuality. No Supervisor Kanungos were fined for bad work or irregularity during the year, but the field allowances of 4 were stopped for bad work.

Travelling allowance.

7. The travelling allowance drawn during the year by Supervisor Kanungos and recorders amounted to Rs. 1,052-15-3 and Rs. 2,479-3-8 respectively. There has thus been a further decrease under both the heads, that under the latter head being as before more marked. The Comptroller's ruling mentioned in paragraph 7 of the last report, by which the recorders cannot be treated as menial servants and are not allowed to draw actual expenses, accounts for the decrease. I have no information to show how far the charges on account of carriage of records have increased as a result of this ruling, but have received no complaints so far.

Sub-Deputy Collectors.

8. The work done by Sub-Deputy Collectors in charge of Land Records circles is detailed briefly in Appendix B. In the Surma Valley, Cachar and the Jaintia Parganas of Sylhet must be excluded as being practically under resettlement for the field season, and in the rest of Sylhet the officers in charge of *ilam* land have neither the opportunity nor need for

very much field work and on the whole their outturn is fair. In the other division, with one or two exceptions of officers who have grown stale or were temperamentally incompatible from the beginning, the Sub-Deputy Collectors have generally worked intelligently and with good will. As I pointed out last year, the running of check lines is a test of efficiency only in fluctuating tracts: now that mauzadars in many places give considerable assistance in effecting undisputed field mutations and that the efforts of previous years to recover arrears have been successful, the records on the whole are fairly up to date. Control over Kanungos continues to improve, but in many cases the latter are left too much to their own devices, not unseldom because they have long experience. In spite, however, of much progress there is no escaping the fact that Sub-Deputy Collectors still look upon their posts as stepping stones to the Provincial Service and that they work in order to be released at some time from their state of bondage. Continual field work, isolation and the absence of social and educational facilities at most of their headquarters are serious drawbacks to the popularity of the service. The recent temporary promotion of four senior officers should be an encouragement to the rest, as it is a practical example of the Chief Commissioner's promise to reserve some permanent posts for them. Amongst the officers who did well are Babu Pramod Chandra Sen Gupta, Srijut Jagannath Bujar Barua, Srijut Uma Nath Gohain, Babu Binod Bihari Roy Barman and Srijut Rameswar Saikia in Kamrup, Srijut Tarini Charan Sarma in Darrang, Srijut Bholanath Kakati and Maulvi Anwar Hossein in Nowgong, Srijut Khageswar Barua in Sibsagar, and Maulvi Nasib Ali in Lakhimpur: in Sylhet Babu Biraja Kanta Ghosh continues to be energetic and careful.

Progress of survey.

9. Appendices C and D show the progress of survey in each plains district and the plains portion of the Garo Hills up to the close of the year under review; the figures for the North-East Frontier are still not available. It will be seen from the figures in the statements that in respect of 28·44 per cent. of the area cadastral survey and preparation of the records-of-rights were completed on the 30th September 1918. The most important areas now outstanding are the permanently-settled areas of Sylhet and Goalpara, an area of about 89 square miles of the former of which has, as stated in Part I of this report, been surveyed as an experimental measure and a record-of-rights has been prepared for it. As often explained, the total area of the province includes large stretches of waste lands for which detailed maps and a record-of-rights are not yet necessary. Extension surveys were carried out in all the districts except Lakhimpur. The largest area surveyed, 284 square miles, was again in Kamrup and comprised the area traversed by the professional party in previous years and partly in 1917-18: part of this is new survey in the north of the district and part consists of resurveying on a theodolite traverse villages which previously had been mapped on plane-table boundaries. Next comes Goalpara, where the area surveyed was 36 square miles, mostly in Sidli mauza, where it is proposed to take up in the present field season for cadastral survey 22 more villages, the traverse plots of which have already been received: in addition some 14 villages in Chirang and 4 more in Sidli were traversed during the year by the Survey Party and their cadastral survey will be carried out on receipt of the traverse polygons. The area surveyed in Sylhet amounted to 25 square miles: it lay mainly in the Karimganj subdivision and was in connection with the survey of the Duhalia Hills. About 11 square miles in the Langai-Singla disforested area and the Isabheel tea estate in this subdivision have been traversed by the Survey Department, besides a similar area in another block of the Duhalia Hills, and the cadastral survey of the whole of this area will be taken up this season. In Darrang the work was mostly in Sutia sub-circle, but the records could not be completed in all cases owing to the overlapping of traverse plots into the boundaries of adjacent villages, which I shall enquire into in this season. In Nowgong some villages traversed by the Survey Department were not surveyed in detail owing to the staff being engaged in the reclassification of post-settlement land, but they will be taken up this cold weather. In the Garo Hills the theodolite traverse of the plains mauzas was nearly finished during the year and the district staff resurveyed 73 villages containing an area of 15·61 square miles, which is apparently settled land, besides the extension survey of about a square mile, also apparently settled, in unsurveyed villages. The work is being continued this year, but urgently requires the continued supervision of a permanent Sub-Deputy Collector. In Statement D there is a considerable discrepancy between the figures now reported from Nowgong and those given previously: pending further enquiries I have given the old figures.

It is now proposed that the Survey of India Department should resume their connection with revenue survey, and the Superintendent, Eastern Circle, who is in charge of our Provincial Surveys, is of opinion that the work done by recorders trained in the use of theodolite is neither likely to attain the required degree of scientific accuracy nor to be economical financially. Hence the scheme for completing the traverse of the temporarily-settled area by local agency, which was originally suggested by the Director of Surveys, Eastern Bengal and Assam, will not be taken up.

The work of reclassification of the land taken up since the resettlement of the Nowgong district was begun and completed during the year by the district Land Records staff. This was a heavy addition to their work in some cases and involved the resurvey of several villages In Darrang an experiment was made of the reclassification of such lands in typical villages with a view to find out whether the results would be remunerative and reclassification has been taken up over the whole district since the close of the year under the supervision of Srijut Bharat Chandra Das as Special Assistant Settlement Officer.

Maintenance of Record.

10. Appendix E gives statistics of the mutations of names in the record effected during the year. The increase in the number of pattas in Sylhet is due to resettlement of the Jaintia parganas, as already explained, and the increase in mutations since last year is due to the effort to maintain the new record which has come into force recently : the same causes apply in Cachar. There have been large increases in the number of periodic pattas in Kamrup, Darrang and Lakhimpur. The increase in mutations in Kamrup is due to making up the arrears of the previous year, when the staff was engaged in re-classification.

The mutation work done by the mauzadars in the Assam Valley districts has been shown separately in the statement, which shows that their assistance is substantial. The highest proportion done by them was 59 per cent. of the total number of mutations and was reached in Kamrup, while in Darrang, Sibsagar, and Lakhimpur the percentages were good, *viz.*, 55, 52, and 47 respectively : in Nowgong it was only 30.

State of Land Records.

11. I inspected land records work in all the circles of Sibsagar and Lakhimpur districts and Tezpur subdivision of Darrang during the last field season. I visited Cachar and Sylhet in March and August 1918, mainly in connection with the winding up of the resettlement and the initiation of land records work on proper lines : ilam work in North Sylhet and Karimganj was also inspected, while my Assistant completed the remaining Sylhet subdivisions. As my inspection notes contain all the detail necessary for each place, only a few general remarks are required here. In the ilam area of Sylhet the records are generally wanting in precision and I am convinced that they will never be placed on a sound basis until a record-of-rights for the whole district is undertaken : Government has lost and will continue to lose land through want of precision in its claims. In the Jaintia parganas and Cachar the new record should be more easily maintained than the old, while in Patharkandi work requires more attention than has been given to it. In the Assam Valley districts as a whole the records are in a very fair condition, if allowance be made for the standard of the staff and for the general carelessness of people in the more sparsely populated and fluctuating areas with regard to their rights. One cannot expect perfection, and the condition of the maps in Kamrup and Sibsagar, where the first resettlements took place, leaves much to be desired. The rules of the Land Records Manual are carried out on the whole with care and uniformity and there is no longer any difference of procedure between one district and another, as the staff have had years to learn and to adapt themselves since the last resettlements. In fact, land records work has become largely a matter of routine, for mistakes in which there is no excuse. As I said last year, I think that the Director could afford to pay more attention to the agricultural side of his work in the cold weather and land records could without much difficulty be left largely to his Assistant, whose inspection notes would keep him in touch with current matters, provided he himself did a few inspections annually. Now that the provincial resettlements have been completed, there is nothing to be done in this line until 1922, unless the survey and settlement of Sylhet and Goalpara are taken up in the meantime.

The mauzadars continue to give substantial help in field mutation work and I am glad to say that my original objections to the scheme have proved groundless.

I append herewith a note by my Assistant, Rai Sahib Debendra Kumar Mukherji, on his inspections :—

"I took over charge of my office as Land Records Assistant on the 8th January 1918 on being relieved of my duties as Assistant Settlement Officer, Cachar, and continued as such till the end of the year except for a period of 58 days during which I was on leave. Thus during the year under report I was in charge for only 208 days, out of which I spent 166 days on tour.

I examined the papers of 375 recorders in 38 sub-circles and 21 circles, including those in Cachar and Jaintia, and ran 46 check lines with an aggregate length of 17·90 miles.

Generally speaking there is lack of proper supervision by the Sub-Deputy Collectors over the land records work in the ilam area in Sylhet. Here the Land Records Manual is not completely in force and I find that there is no uniformity of procedure. The method of assessment of waste land newly taken up differs in different circles. The final orders on this subject are contained in the Government letter No. 145Rev-1248R., dated the 11th April 1902, to the address of the Deputy Commissioner, Sylhet, and the principles laid down therein should be strictly followed everywhere in future. Secondly, proper attention is not paid to the maintenance of survey marks. The survey stations demarcated by earthen mounds have disappeared almost in all cases. It is, however, not worth while making any attempt to replace them by new *dhips* before the next resettlement, because in the first place it will not be an easy task to trace them accurately, and secondly it will be difficult to keep them in order in a country which is flooded every year and where the people are indifferent about the maintenance of these marks. The records are everywhere out of date. The system of field mutation has lately been introduced in Karimganj and South Sylhet and an attempt will now be made to bring the records up to date at least in villages lying in compact blocks. The same thing should be done in Sunamganj where the work is very light. In the Assam Valley there has been a gradual improvement in the condition of the records, although it has not yet attained the required standard in some circles. Owing to the revision of classifications of the post-resettlement dags in Kamrup and Sibsagar the mistakes in land classification have now been appreciably reduced. The reclassification work in Nowgong has just been completed and that in Darrang will now be taken up.

Garo Hills.

I inspected field work in the newly-constituted sub-circle, when the work of re-survey was in progress in mauza V. The state of the old maps and records was found to be quite unsatisfactory. There were bad survey mistakes and also unassessed cultivation here and there in some villages. The records of the periodic lands in mauza VI were also found to be very much out of date and I suggested that new *chithas* should be written up according to possession after re-survey. I pointed out the defects in the method of carrying out the re-survey and gave detailed instructions on the subject.

My inspection of the office work in the other sub-circle did not disclose any serious mistakes in the records, but I noticed gross neglect of his legitimate duties by the Supervisor Kanungo Mohi Ram Das, for which, I think, there was no valid excuse.

The work in both the sub-circles requires close and continuous supervision by a Sub-Deputy Collector for some time.

Goalpara.

Circle Eastern Duars, sub-circle Gossaingaon.—Due attention was not paid to inspection of crops and survey marks and recording of mutations in mauza Guma which was re-suveyed in 1915-16 and settled for a period of 20 years. Here the Kanungo failed to exercise proper supervision.

In mauza Santhal Colony the settled land is all annual and there should be more *partal* lines by the Supervisor Kanungo and the Sub-Deputy Collector. The survey marks are generally in a satisfactory condition.

In mauza Ripu which contains both annual and periodic lands there are a number of villages where the survey of annual lands is to be tested by check lines. Mutation work in the periodically-settled villages was somewhat neglected. The practice of issuing *pattas* for unreclaimed land by the mandals should be stopped.

Kamrup.

Gauhati circle.—New lands taken up since the revision of classification of the post-resettlement dags in 1916-17 were reclassed by the mandals, contrary to the Government orders to assess them at the favourable rates as before. There was also some confusion about carrying out the orders regarding the assessment of land in unsurveyed areas. Necessary corrections had to be made in the records during the summer recess.

In Gauhati sub-circle I discovered many mistakes in area calculation and land classification in 2 lots, the maps and records of which should be carefully checked by the Kanungo. New periodic *pattas* were issued without proper check of survey in some cases. Taken as a whole, the work in this sub-circle is not satisfactory and requires more strict supervision by the Sub-Deputy Collector.

The condition of the records in the Palasbari sub-circle is on the whole fair. Barring a few mistakes in area calculation and some minor irregularities there was nothing wrong. The assessment of local rates in *lakhiraj* estates should be revised annually on the basis of the cultivated areas as shown in the *dag chitha* of the year.

Hajo sub-circle of Kamalpur circle.—New land taken up since the revision of classification in 1916-17 was wrongly assessed in a number of villages at the rates proposed by the Settlement Officer in the body of the Group Report instead of at the *Baliseriya ahutoli* rates as sanctioned by the Government in the final Resolution. Necessary corrections should be made in the records of these villages at the next regular settlement.

There were a few mistakes in areas and classification in some of the records. I noticed a number of villages which require testing of the survey by check lines and also pointed out some minor defects. There are no long pending mutation entries in the *chithas* and on the whole the records are in a fairly satisfactory condition.

I visited all the 4 circles, *viz.*, Roha, Nowgong, Kamrup and Samaguri in the district. The best part of my time was devoted to inspecting the work of re-classification of the post-resettlement dags and giving necessary instructions to the Kanungos and mandals in connection with the same. But I also took the opportunity of checking the ordinary work of the mandals in a few lots in each sub-circle. The work was found to be distinctly good in the Roha circle and great credit is due to the Sub-Deputy Collector in charge—Maulve Anwar Hussain, whose work is always distinguished by care and thoroughness. The work in the Nowgong Circle was also well managed by Srijut Bholanath Kakati who is an intelligent officer. Hatichung sub-circle was not, however, in a healthy condition due probably to lack of proper supervision by the Supervisor Kanungo. The records in the Kampur circle were on the whole, found to be in a fairly satisfactory condition. The work in the Samaguri sub-circle was getting on fairly well, but there was room for much improvement in the records of the Silghat sub-circle, where the Kanungo and the mandals generally are inexperienced. The Sub-Deputy Collector should pay greater attention to the work in the latter sub-circle.

Nowgong.

Moriani circle.—The work in neither of the 2 sub-circles, Gakhirkhoa and Titabor, is in good order. The records in the former are especially in a very unsatisfactory condition. I found a large number of mistakes in area calculation and land classification and also discrepancies between *chitha* and *jamabandi* regarding the names of settlement-holders, besides other omissions and irregularities. This is no doubt due to want of proper supervision by the Supervisor Kanungo. I further noticed several cases in which the Kanungo ordered the conversion of the annual into periodic *pattas* without the previous sanction of the Sub-Deputy Collector. This must be stopped and the provisions of rule 105 of the new Land Records Manual should be observed.

Sibsagar.

The state of work in the Titabor sub-circle was found to be somewhat better than in Gakhirkhoa but the records were not free from mistakes.

This circle suffered to some extent from frequent changes of Sub-Deputy Collectors. Both the Supervisor Kanungo and the Sub-Deputy Collector should pay special attention to the work in the lots referred to in my inspection notes.

Chutia sub-cirle of the Behali circle.—I discovered a large number of mistakes in areas and classification and the state of the records in several lots was found to be unsatisfactory in many respects. The Supervisor Kanungo neglected to compare the faired *chithas* of many villages and to do the required amount of checking of the area calculation. The rules regarding partition of dags were not strictly observed. The Sub-Deputy Collector should be able to pay greater attention to land records work in future.

Darrang.

Eleven villages in Chutia and 15 in Behali sub-circle were surveyed in extension during the year. The maps and *chithas* of these villages were not sufficiently tested either by the Kanungo or the Sub-Deputy Collector. A separate note on extension survey giving full instructions on various points was submitted by me to the Deputy Commissioner.

As already stated, very little progress was made in the ordinary land records work of the district the staff being busy mainly in clearing the arrears of office work left by the settlement party. Practically the only work done by the patwaris in the field was to record mutations in some lots. The Sub-Deputy Collectors of the Katigora and Hailakandi circles also sanctioned a large number of field mutations. There was some confusion about the assessment of new land. In spite of clear orders to assess waste land taken up after resettlement in the surveyed villages at the *Chara* rates, such lands were reclassed in the Lakhipur area. Waste lands taken up in unsurveyed areas were also similarly classed in 2 other sub-circles. This was wrong. It should be assessed at an all-round rate for the district to be fixed by Government as in the Assam Valley districts.

Cachar.

The majority of the patwaris are acquainted with the provisions of the Land Records Manual and it is hoped that the work will get on all right, if proper supervision is exercised by the Sub-Deputy Collectors. There is no doubt that the land records staff will have to work very hard for the next year or two to clear the heavy arrears of mutation and bring the settlement records up to date.

Jaintia Parganas.—Here too a beginning was made to start ordinary land records work on the close of the settlement operations. I left detailed instructions in my inspection notes which should be carefully observed. As in Cachar the land records work will require the serious attention of the Sub-Deputy Collectors for sometime.

Sylhet.

Ilam.—The ilam work in Karimganj was properly looked after by the Sub-Deputy Collector Babu Biraja Kanta Ghosh; my instructions regarding field mutation lately introduced in this subdivision should be fully carried out in future. The state of the records in Habiganj was also found in a fairly satisfactory condition. The work of the subordinates staff in North and South Sylhet requires more strict supervision by the Sub-Deputy Collectors. Now that the system of field mutation has been introduced in South Sylhet it is more necessary that the Sub-Deputy Collectors should be allowed to pay greater attention to his ilam work than he has done hitherto. In Sunamganj there was no Sub-Deputy Collector in charge of ilam work during the year and the records were found to be very unsatisfactory in one of the 3 lots.

The resttlement of the time-expired ilam estates in North Sylhet and Sunamganj should be expedited. More attention should be paid to the inspection of *sarkari dags* and maintenance of survey marks both in the Ilam and Nankar villages.

Patharkandi circle.—I discovered unassessed land under cultivation in one lot and also found unrecorded changes of possession in some villages in the course of my field inspection. A casual comparison of the records also brought to light many discrepancies between the *chithas* and *jamabandi* in the names of the settlement-holders. On the whole the mutation work is much behindhand and the records are in a very unsatisfactory condition in many villages. The records should be compared systematically and brought up to date by carrying out field mutations within the next 3 years. A regular programme of work should be drawn up for this purpose."

Inspection of land records by District Officers.

12. I am glad to be able to record that the inspection of land records by the District Officers in the Assam Valley continued to be satisfactory. All the Deputy Commissioners, including the Deputy Commissioner of the Garo Hills, devoted a good deal of attention to the work of the recorders both in the field and in office. Mr. Soames' work in Darrang was notable for the large number of check lines run. As stated in the report for 1916-17 I think that over much stress should not be laid on the number of lines run by Deputy Commissioners personally: there are many other points of equal importance and the main duty of the Deputy Commissioner is to see that the rules are obeyed by the staff. In Nowgong the reclassification of post-settlement lands required the special attention of the Deputy Commissioner and Mr. Dawson inspected the work extensively.

In the Surma Valley the resettlement work continued for the most part of the year in Cachar and in the Jaintiapur parganas of Sylhet and no inspection of land records by the Deputy Commissioners was required in these areas. I doubt if the Deputy Commissioner, Sylhet, will ever be able to pay much personal attention to land records, nor is there pressing need in his district or Cachar, except to see that the record is being efficiently maintained, as there is little fluctuation in the area settled. The inspection of land records by the Subdivisional Officers in the Assam Valley was fair, but I think that more might have been done in North Lakhimpur, Mangaldai and Barpeta. Mr. Helme in Golaghat ran a considerable number of check lines, while Maulvi Faizuddin Ahmad in Sibsagar inspected a good many mandals. In the Surma Valley all the Subdivisional Officers except that of Sunamganj are reported to have done some inspection, but no details are given: they have generally not much time to spare for this work, which is very scattered in their subdivisions. Sunamganj was the worst off, because there was no Sub-Deputy Collector there during the year.

Survey marks.

13. Statement F in the appendix contains the results of the inspection of survey marks in the province. Despite the attention paid to the verification of these figures and efforts made to get at the correct figures large variations in the total figures are reported from year to year. The reasons for these variations may be briefly stated as below :—

(1) Recovery of lost marks.

(2) Erection of new marks on the boundaries of grazing reserves and in extension survey villages.

(3) Erection of new marks in the area traversed by the Survey Department.

(4) Revision of the number of marks in some districts by the exclusion of marks which are no longer maintained as being unnecessary.

(5) Washing away of marks by rivers.

(6) Loss of marks in deep and inaccessible jungle.

It is satisfactory to find that the number of marks in good order has increased, while there is a decrease in the number lost or left unvisited. But the number not repaired has also increased. In December 1917 I asked Deputy Commissioners to consider and report why survey marks in need of repair were neglected in the case of each district and received the following main lines of reply :—

(1) The reluctance of the raiyats to repair the marks generally and especially those on *sarkari* lands situated at some distance from cultivation.

(2) Negligence of mandals and *gaonburas* especially in Lakhimpur.

(3) Loss of marks in dense and inaccessible jungle and by the action of rivers and floods.

(4) Neglect of marks inside tea gardens or on railway land where none can be induced to repair them.

In reply I drew attention to the need for tact on the part of the Land Records staff and to the possible application of sections 22(2), 25, 26, notices under section 141(1) and section 142 of the Land and Revenue Regulation and rule 102 of the rules under sections 27 and 152. There is no reason why tea-garden managers should not maintain the boundary marks of their grants, while on the other hand it is unfair to expect villagers to maintain an unduly large number of temporary marks like Kanungos' *dhips* or theodolite stations indicated by mounds and *simul* trees. With the approval of Government I issued a circular authorising the abandonment of such stations on traverse lines as are not on bends or trijunctions or were not required for the certain identification of these latter marks. This reduction in unnecessary marks,

which are particularly numerous in land under jungle either now or at the time of traverse, should make the maintenance of the rest not so difficult. Where stones have been used as survey marks, as in the Surma Valley and Kamrup, there is little or no trouble in maintenance and it is a question for consideration whether it would not be better to take up this matter in the remaining districts at their next resettlement.

PART III.—Miscellaneous.

Changes and reforms.

14. No reform of importance was effected during the year. The revised edition of the Land Records Manual has been issued for use. The Local Administration has recently sanctioned an improvement in the actual grading of Supervisor Kanungos from 1st April 1920. The necessity for economy has prevented the submission of any proposals involving avoidable expenditure and hence any reforms. I think that quarters for the recess might be erected in more places. The staff are already pointing to the improved prospects of village school masters, to whom they were at one time superior, and I must acknowledge that we are not encouraging the enlistment of the best type of men by the present pay and prospects. So far, however, there is no undue difficulty in obtaining candidates and the only fear is that our remuneration of the staff is increased by perquisites which do not fall in the way of the village school master.

Charge and tour.

15. I was in charge of the Department throughout the whole year and spent 157 days on tour. Rai Bahadur Radha Kanta Handiqui having gone on combined leave preparatory to retirement, I had no Assistant till the 8th January 1918, when Rai Sahib Debendra Kumar Mukherji joined: his period of charge and tours have been mentioned in his note.

J. McSWINEY,

Director of Land Records and Agriculture, Assam.

APPENDIX B.

Work statement of Sub-Deputy Collectors for the year ending 30th September 1918.

Name of Circle or Subdivision.	Name of Sub-Deputy Collector.	Number of recorders in the circle.	Number of recorders whose papers were checked.	Number of villages in the circle.	Number of villages visited.	Number of check lines run.	Total length of check lines run.	Number of *chitha* entries tested.	Number of *chitha* entries found incorrect.	Number of thoodolite station marks inspected.	Number of mutation and partition cases effected on the spot.	Number of mutation cases done in the office.	Name of Karungo.	Character of each Kanungo's work during the year.	Remarks.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
CACHAR.							Miles.								
Katigara ...	Amanat Ali Khandakar ...	16	11	185	65	...	...	...	...	...	3,304 mutations.	15	Ramdoyal Bhattacharjee	Experienced hand.	
Silchar ...	Maulvi Muhammad Ali, 1st February 1918 to 30th April 1918.	25	...	293	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	65	.....	.....	
	Babu Surendra Nath Dutta, from 22nd August 1918.														
Hailakandi ...	Srijut Bansi Badan Sarma ...	29	29	278	78	...	...	...	...	...	4,476 mutation.	3	Dinanath Ghosh ...	Satisfactory.	
													Ram Mati Mukherji ...	Experienced hand.	
SYLHET.															
Sadar ...	Babu Biraja Kanta Roy Dastidar.	3	3	488	47	10	260·96	136	17	123	...	...	Chandra Kumar Bose...	Fair.	
													Golok Chandra Kar	Good.	
Karimganj ...	„ Biraja Kanta Ghosh...	4	4	554	58	22	237·34	269	28	50	416	54	Abdul Hossain ...	Very efficient character.	
Patharkandi ...	Maulvi Masrafulla ...	6	6	209	113	16	254·00	869	46	150	1,309	19	Gopal Chandra Chatterjee.	Fair.	
Sunamganj ...	.....	3	...	305	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Abdul Hossen ...	Very good.	
													Golok Chandra Kar ...	.....	
													Gopal Chandra Chatterjee.	.....	
South Sylhet ...	Babu Surendra Nath Chaudhuri.	5	5	929	83	3	269·35	345	66	124	94	...	Hridoy Chandra Ghosh	Good.	
Habiganj ...	Maulvi Dirajudin Ahmad ...	2	2	506	61	10	128·54	127	3	34	...	...	Janaki Nath De ...	Satisfactory.	

Gowainghat ...	Maulvi Azizur Rahaman ...	30	30	451	105	...	...	...	...	...	4,997	...	Hari Mohan Das ...	Good.	
													Jajneswar Dutta ...		
													Madaris Ali ...		
Kanaighat ...	„ Abdul Wahid ...	20	12	269	245	...	...	...	...	...	1,484	18	Fazil Baksh ...	Good.	
													Haradayal Sarma ...		
GOALPARA.															
Eastern Duars ...	Babu Krishna Behari Roy Chowdhury.	41	41	717	200	...	18·47	966	74	126	2	...	Ratiram Das ...	Fair.	
					180	...	45·41	1,245	47	193	39	1	Jatraram Das ...	Fairly good.	
	Srijut Pampu Singh ...												Brojendra Mohan Das	Ditto.	
													Kamalnath Das ...	Fair.	
KAMRUP.															
Gauhati Sadar circle.	Srijut Jagannath Bujar Barua from 10th November 1917 to 23rd January 1918.		20	321	51	...	....	187	5	5	142	9	.....		
	Maulvi Nurul Hussain Hazarika.	38	38		240	16	6·25	3,055	50	371	910	69	.....		
Chhaigaon Circle	Srijut Jagannath Bujar Barua		43	393	268	38	14·74	3,999	117	138	427	86	.....		
	Babu Krishna Beheri Roy Chowdhury from 19th June to 30th September 1918.	45	8		19	...	...	...	...	...	3	22	.....		
Kamalpur ...	Srijut Devannada Bharali ...	40	40	296	183	17	6·92	1,140	53	267	249	164	Jagannath Deka ...	Satisfactory.	
													Illias Ali ...	Unsatisfactory.	
Rangiya ...	Srijut Jagannath Bujar Barua	46	3	330	6		...	..	...	...	...	...	.....		
	„ Uma Nath Gohain	...	46		209	30	12·66	2,773	53	295	326	104	.....		
	Maulvi Nurul Hussein Hazarika.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	32	.....		
Southern Nalbari	Srijut Hari Prasad Das from 29th April to 30th September 1918.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Durgaram Dutta ...	Good.	
	Babu Promode Chandra Sen Gupta from 1st October 1917 to 29th April 1918.	32	32	210	179	15	8·51	5,811	160	341	409	79	Dhaturam Tahbildar ...		
Northern Nalbari (Tihu).	Babu Promode Chandra Sen Gupta from 1st October to 30th October 1917.	27	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	27	.....		
	Srijut Hari Prasad Das from 31st October 1917 to 20th September 1918.	27	27	136	134	65	25·7	3,793	119	360	283	137	Purnananda Chaudhury	Very good.	
													Ugranath Sarma ...	Working well.	
Barpeta ...	Babu Binode Behari Roy Barman from 1st October 1917 to 18th October 1917.	20	6	257*	9	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	.....		
	Srijut Rameswar Saikia ...	32	32	398†	251	122	.40 (nearly)	5,494	...	272	223	8	.....		
Bojali Circle ...	Babu Binode Behari Roy Barman.	52	52	387*	223	54	24·01	3,549	107	482	409	185	Sitaram Das ...	Satisfactory.	
		40	...	245†											

* Up to 17th May 1908.
† From 18th „

APPENDIX B—*contd.*

Work statement of Sub-Deputy Collectors for the year ending 30th September 1918.

Name of Circle or Subdivision.	Name of Sub-Deputy Collector.	Number of recorders in the circle.	Number of recorders whose papers were checked.	Number of villages in the circle.	Number of villages visited.	Number of check lines run.	Total length of check lines run.	Number of *chitha* entries tested.	Number of *chitha* entries found incorrect.	Number of theodolite station marks inspected.	Number of mutation and partition cases effected on the spot.	Number of mutation cases done in the office.	Name of Kanungo.	Character of each Kanungo's work during the year.	Remarks.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
DARRANG.							Miles.								
Tezpur Circle ...	Srijut Tarini Charan Bhatta-Charya.	32	32	264	264	43	1,507·48	3,129	115	398	599	113	Ratikanta Saikia ...	Satisfactory.	
													Phultungram Deka ...		
Behali Circle ...	„ Bepin Chandra Bordalai 1st to 30th October 1917.	32	32	311	240	29	16·77	1,937	144	325	649	99	Jogeswar Hazarika ...	Knows work, though outturn was poor.	
													Ratneswar Saikia ...	Hardy and willing but not thorough always.	
Mangaldai Circle...	„ Ramananda Chowdhury	45	45	352	219	41	14·02	7,239	122	283	591	201	Moniram Saikia ...	Satisfactory.	
	„ Premodhar Gohain ...	...	...	...	16	29	...	8	...	...	...	...	Jagat Chandra Saharia	Tolerable.	
													.....	.....	
Kalaigaon ...	„ Premadhar Gohain ...	43	43	564*	297	45	19·66	4,870	357	391	230	2	Nomal Chandra Saharia	Satisfactory.	* Five villages excluded having been included the Orang game reserve.
													Harinath Deka ...		
NOWGONG.															
Nowgong Circle ...	„ Bholanath Kakati ...	52	52	443	431	100	·38	6,268	37	661	631	54	Chandra Kanta Bhuyan	Satisfactory.	
													Surat Chandra Bora ...	Fair.	
													Bissen Sing Chhetri ...	„	
Kampur Circle ...	Maulvi Habibur Rahman ...	32†	32	243	171	36	15·10	1,511	68	202	1,046	13	Srinath Bora ...	Satisfactory.	† Including temporary men.
													Bholanath Laskar ...	Fair.	

Roha Circle ...	Maulvi Muhammad Anwar Hosain.	58	58	474	264	61	25·68	8,121	146	809	1,820	32	Kinaram Sarma ...	Not quite satisfactory.	
													Dinanath Sarma ...	Quite satisfactory.	
													Durgaram Das ...	Ditto.	
Samaguri Circle ...	Srijut Uma Charan Gohcin ...	36	36	276	270	76	28·83	7,533	340	460	496	50	Govinda Chandra Saikia	.....	
													Haladhar Sarma offg....	Quite satisfactory.	
													Hemaram Hazarika ...	Not satisfactory for ill-health.	
													Mahidhar Gogoi offg....	Satisfactory.	
SIBSAGAR.															
Jorhat Sadr Circle	(i) Babu Srish Kumar Sen from 1st October 1917 to 16th September 1918.	29	29	251	171	26	7·86	2,216	49	432	248	89	1 Srijut Mohiram Das	Fair.	(i) Babu Satish Kumar Sen —total number of days on tour—171—number of nights halted out 51.
													2(i) „ Sibnath Sarma		
													(ii) „ Kanidhar Kakati	Was in charge during a portion of the summer recess only.	
	(ii) Maulvi Mazidur Rahaman from the 17th to the 30th September 1918.	29	2	251	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	.....	.....	(ii) Maulvi Mazidur Rahaman—total number of days on tour—nil.
Khangia Circle ...	Srijut Tarini Charan Chaudhury.	11	11	98	98	6	2·26	1,001	30	169	527	88	Kinaram Das ...	Satisfactory.	
													Sibanath Sarma ...		
Sibsagar „ ...	Maulvi Mahibuddin Ahmed...	38	38	358	290	14	5·93	4,447	69	469	1,323	567	Umeswar Sarma ...	Fair.	
													Tarun Chandra Sarma		
Nazira „ ...	Srijut Khogewar Barua ...	38	38	380	198	30	9·84	4,534	350	355	1,103	355	Jajnaram Gogoi ...	Fair.	
													Kinaram Das ...		
Moriani „ ...	Maulvi Talmizur Rahman Chawdhury	37	34	353	208	51	17·52	5,570	564	1,213	190	98	Mohiram Datta ...	New to the circle but willing and intelligent.	
													Parsuram Barthakur...	Too old and therefore not quite satisfactory.	
Golaghat „ ...	Muhammad Muhibullah ...	40	40	335	211	39	20	9,038	140	406	266	198	Bhakatram Datta ...	Satisfactory.	
													Mohidhar Barua ...		
	Maulvi Mazidur Rahaman ...	...	14	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	.....	.....	
Kamargaon „ ...	„ Majidur Rahaman from 1st October 1917 to 11th September 1918.	71	17	192	139	25	12·5	2,559	77	164	165	87	Mohon Chandra Sarma	Satisfactory.	
													Mohiram Dutta ...		

APPENDIX B—*concld.*

Work statement of Sub-Deputy Collectors for the year ending 30th September 1918.

Name of Circle or Subdivision.	Name of Sub-Deputy Collector.	Number of recorders in the circle.	Number of recorders whose papers were checked.	Number of villages in the circle.	Number of villages visited.	Number of check lines run.	Total length of check lines run.	Number of *chitha* entries tested.	Number of *chitha* entries found incorrect.	Number of theodolite station marks inspected.	Number of mutation and partition cases effected on the spot.	Number of mutation cases done in the office.	Name of Kanungo.	Character of each Kanungo's work during the year.	Remarks.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
LAKHIMPUR.							Miles.								
Dibrugarh Circle ...	Maulvi Fazlur Rahman ...	30	30	346	275	35	17·82	6,433	103	551	319	29	Jatiram Das ... Rabit Chandra Das ...	Satisfactory.	
Tengakhat „ ...	Srijut Annada Charan Bhattacharjee.	34	34	587	260	24	11·34	1,028	1	177	89	29	Dimbeswar Gogoi ... Dinanath Gogoi ...	Good.	
Tinsukia „ ...	Maulvi Syed Sheikhul Mosheik Chisti.	27	27	251	205	19	25·18 (a)	2,243	63	451	157	22	Gopal Chandra Rajkhoa Lakheswar Das ...	Satisfactory. Well.	(a) Includes 21·81 miles run in connection with the demarcation of frontier boundaries.
	Srijut Trilokeswar Bhuyan	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Sabharam. Dilingin, Offg.		
Ranganadi „ ...	„ Rameswar Saikia ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	.....		
	„ Trilokeswar Bhuyan	20	20	270	81	7	5·22	1,758	241	378	299	12	Mohiram Das ...	Well.	
	„ Achyutananda Pathak						2·06	913	26	144	84	22			
Subansiri „ ...	Maulvi Nasib Ali Majumdar...	16	16	215	206	34	11·62	3,598	229	446	287	5	Sibnath Deka ...	Well.	
Garo Hills ...	Babu Harkumar Das from 1st October to 13th November 1917.	12	8	283	12	...	...	248	6	16	76	...	Mohiram Das.		
	Srijut Bipin Chandra Bardalai from 8th February to 26th April 1918.		12		31	30	12·48	148	2	60	...	...	Holiram Das.		

APPENDIX C.

["Permanently-settled" in this table includes "revenue free."]

District.	Classification of district area (square miles).			Area for which a cadastral survey and record-of-rights are completed (square miles).			Area for which a cadastral survey and record-of-rights were being prepared in 1917-18 (square miles).			Area outstanding (square miles).			Remarks.
	Permanently-settled.	Not permanently-settled.	Total.	Permanently-settled.	Not permanently-settled.	Total.	Permanently-settled.	Not permanently-settled.	Total.	Permanently-settled.	Not permanently settled.	Total.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14.
Cachar	3	3,766	3,769	3	1,063	1,066	...	...	...	...	2,703	2,703	
Sylhet	3,825	1,555	5,380	89	851	940	...	25	25	3,736	679	4,415	
Goalpara	2,528	1,433	3,961	...	593	593	...	...	...	2,528	840	3,368	
Kamrup	53	3,805	3,858	53	2,660	2,713	...	...	...	...	1,145	1,145	
Darrang	8	3,398	3,406	8	1,192	1,200	...	12	12	...	2,194	2,194	
Nowgong	4	3,800	3,804	4	1,156	1,160	...	...	...	...	2,644	2,644	
Sibsagar	62	4,934	4,996	62	1,832	1,894	...	7	7	...	3,095	3,095	
Lakhimpur	3	3,977	3,980	3	735	738	...	...	...	...	3,242	3,242	
Garo Hills	...	3,140	3,140	...	63	63	...	...	...	...	3,077	3,077	
Total	6,486	29,806	36,294	222	10,145	10,367	...	44	44	6,264	19,619	25,833	

APPENDIX D.

Progress of Extension Surveys for the year ending 30th September 1918.

Name of district.	Total area of district (square miles).	Area surveyed by professional party (square miles).	Area surveyed in extension by village recorders.			Total area cadastrally surveyed (square miles).	Remarks.
			Previously (square miles).	During the year under report (square miles).	Total (square miles).		
1	2.	3	4	5	6	7	8
Cachar ...	3,769	1,034	31	1	32	1,066	
Sylhet ...	5,380	545	395*	25	420	965	
Goalpara ...	3,961	....	557	36	593	593	
Kamrup ...	3,858	1,966	463	284	747	2,713	
Darrang ...	3,406	1,045	155	12	167	1,212	
Nowgong ...	3,804	1,012	147	1	148	1,160	
Sibsagar ...	4,996	1,521	373	7	380	1,901	
Lakhimpur ...	3,980	269	469	...	469	738	
Garo Hills ...	3,140	...	62	1	63	63	
Total ...	36,294	7,392	2,652	367	3,019	10,411	

* Including 89 square miles of permanently-settled area.

APPENDIX E.

Name of district.	Classification of *pattas*.	Total number of *pattas*.	Number of (*pattas* or portion of *pattas*) transfers.		Number of (*pattas* or portions of *pattas*) transfers by—				Area, in acres, transferred by—				Remarks.
					Sale or usufructuary mortgage.				Sale or usufructuary mortgaeg.				
			By summary procedure.	By regular procedure.	Under decree by civil court.	By private gift or contract.	Succession.	Other causes.	Under decree of civil court.	By private gift or contract.	Succession.	Other causes.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Cachar ...	Periodic khirāj.	83,524	8,497	260	18	6,087	2,401	251	13	4,090	1,947	1,108	
Sylhet ...		73,184	4,070	145	313	2,246	4,465	677	786	1,692	3,335	1,114	
Goalpara ...		4,963	139	1	...	95	37	8	...	696	435	29	
Kamrup ...		256,698	3,671 5,338(a)	491	136	3,193	5,171	1,000	394	5,236	13,704	1,751	
Darrang ...		106,102	2,047 2,521(a)	345 ...	18 ...	988 1,131	1,146 1,254	240 136	52 ...	1,835 2,115	2,404 2,838	391 176	
Nowgong ...		63,015	2,353 1,039(a)	100	14	1,148	2,039	291	50	1,084	2,063	197	
Sibsagar ...		172,534	4,100 4,558(a)	1,040	73	3,947	5,124	554	252	7,681	12,450	896	
Lakhimpur ...		62,792	1,288 1,148(a)	76	9 1	586 728	738 402	38 17	33 3	1,038 1,748	1,776 1,344	182 52	
Garo Hills ...		2,633	54 45(a)		...	14 7	31 47	...	...	37 28	188 159	...	
Total ...		825,455	40,828	2,458	582	20,176	22,815	3,212	1,583	27,280	42,643	4,896	
Cachar ...	Lakhirāj.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Sylhet ...		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Goalpara ...		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Kamrup ...		38	2	7	2	...	4	3	366	...	207	174	
Darrang ...		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Nowgong ...		4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Sibsagar ...		81	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Lakhimpur ...		6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Garo Hills ...		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Total ...		128	2	7	2	...	4	3	366	...	207	174	
Cachar ...	Nisf-khirāj.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Sylhet ...		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Goalpara ...		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Kamrup ...		3,206	101 268(a)	56	22	145	221	37	170	768	3,864	979	
Darrang ...		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Nowgong ...		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Sibsagar ...		491	6	...	6	...	...	...	6	...	...	...	
Lakhimpur ...		60	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Garo Hills ...		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Total ...		3,757	375	56	28	145	221	37	176	768	3,864	979	

(a) By mauzadars.

APPENDIX F.

Condition of survey marks during the year ending 30th September 1918.

No.	Classification.	Total number of marks.	Total number found in good order.	Number found not in good order.		Total of columns 4 and 5 in good order, on 1st October 1917.	Number lost or left unvisited.
				Repaired.	Not repaired.		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	Theodolite stations—						
	(i) Stone prisms	15,799	13,329	992	294	14,321	1,260
	(ii) Square stones	27,966	17,342	204	685	17,546	8,618
	(iii) Other marks	92,139	43,874	21,404	8,870	65,278	12,147
2	Boundary marks of districts, etc. (other than theodolite stations)—						
	(i) Stone prisms	631	553	26	...	579	18
	(ii) Square stones	5,048	2,717	37	30	2,754	1,531
	(iii) Other marks	9,568	5,578	1,670	1,603	7,248	527
3	Boundary marks of private property (other than theodolite stations)—						
	(i) Stone prisms	5,801	5,600	33	37	5,633	131
	(ii) Square stones	14,662	13,652	117	90	13,769	803
	(iii) Other marks	7,507	6,129	414	215	6,543	749
4	Kanungo's mounds	17,194	8,241	2,041	2,387	10,282	1,419
5	Grazing reserve	13,260	5,659	3,471	4,085	9,130	45
6	Fuel reserve	15	...	15	...	15	...
	Total	209,590	122,674	30,424	18,296	153,098	27,248

APPENDIX G.

Statement showing resident and non-resident Recorders on the 30th September 1918.

Name of district.	Number of resident mandals and patwaris.	Number of non-resident mandals and patwaris.	Number of mandals and patwaris who have been exempted by superior orders.	Total.	Number of mandals and patwaris who have become resident or been exempted during the year under report.	Remarks.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Cachar	71	10	18	99	...	
Sylhet	54	8	11	73	3	
Goalpara	28	9	4	41	2	
Kamrup	173	42	86	301	2	
Darrang	79	35	38	152	2	
Nowgong	128	5	45	178	...	
Sibsagar	137	23	50	210	2	
Lakhimpur	96	28	3	127	...	
Garo Hills	5	7	...	12	...	
North-East Frontier ...	...	4	...	4	...	
Total ...	771	171	255	1,197	11	

APPENDIX H.

Statement showing punishments imposed on Recorders during the year under report.

District.	Total number of recorders fined.	Fines imposed on recorders.				Fines subsequently remitted.	Net amount of fines imposed.
		Absence without leave.	Delay in submitting papers.	Other reasons.	Total.		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
		Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
Cachar ...	56	21 6 11	...	5 7 0	26 13 11	...	26 13 11
Sylhet ...	9	...	4 0 0	4 12 0	8 12 0	...	8 12 0
Goalpara ...	13	...	4 8 0	20 3 2	24 11 2	...	24 11 2
Kamrup ...	287	229 8 9	119 8 0	289 6 0	638 6 9	1 1 0	637 5 9
Darrang ...	49	...	14 0 0	57 8 0	71 8 0	...	71 8 0
Nowgong ...	172	63 8 0	48 8 0	64 0 0	175 8 0	...	175 8 0
Sibsagar ...	70	18 0 0	24 8 0	210 8 0	253 0 0	...	253 0 0
Lakhimpur ...	173	224 4 0	22 8 0	9 8 0	256 4 0	4 0 0	252 4 0
Garo Hills ...	1	...	...	4 0 0	4 0 0	...	4 0 0
Total ...	830	556 3 8	237 8 0	665 4 2	1,458 15 10	5 1 0	1,453 14 10

APPENDIX I.

Statement showing travelling allowance drawn by Supervisor Kanungos and Recorders.

	Travelling allowance drawn by Supervisor Kanungos.	Travelling allowance drawn by Recorders.
	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
Cachar	30 8 9	69 11 6
Sylhet	302 15 3	564 7 11
Goalpara	69 5 0	54 7 3
Kamrup	357 14 6	991 14 9
Darrang	6 14 6	132 1 0
Nowgong	96 3 9	477 15 6
Sibsagar	25 0 0	141 0 9
Lakhimpur	142 6 6	47 9 0
Garo Hills	21 11 0	...
Total ...	1,052 15 3	2,479 3 8

A. S. P. O. (R. & A.) No. 65—200—14-2-1919—M, C. P.

Resolution on the Survey and Settlement Report, Assam for the year ending the 30th September 1918.

Extract from the Proceedings of the Chief Commissioner of Assam in the Revenue Department, No. 530R., dated the 13th February 1919.

READ—

The Survey and Settlement Report, Assam, for the year ending the 30th September 1918.

RESOLUTION.

The Assam surveys continued under the control of the Superintendent, Eastern Circle, Survey of India, throughout the year in accordance with the temporary arrangement which came into force in December 1915. As in the preceding year this arrangement proved most satisfactory. The Chief Commissioner is glad to have this opportunity of acknowledging again his indebtedness to Lieutenant-Colonel Crichton, C.I.E., and on his departure, Lieutenant-Colonel Robertson, C.M.G., for their most efficient management of the Department.

The work done by the Assam Traverse Party included the traverse of 368 villages in which settlement is to be undertaken, and the demarcation of several important boundaries.

The Superintendent has drawn attention to the unsatisfactory work of some Approved Surveyors and has mentioned one firm in particular. The Chief Commissioner trusts that local officers will not overlook the Circular orders which were issued in 1912 on the subject of the work of approved surveyors. Deputy Commissioners are responsible for seeing that these orders are communicated to all Approved Surveyors and that they are observed.

The Shillong Drawing Office printed only 42,958 copies of maps as compared with 1,45,674 copies in the previous year. The decrease is due to the absence of any demand for maps from the Government of Bengal and partly also to a smaller demand from the districts of Assam. In the Mandals' Certificate examination 28 pupils appeared from the Survey School of whom 23 were passed as successful. Eight Mandals not holding mandals' certificates from the Survey School, were given special training and granted certificates of proficiency in map drawing.

The Chief Commissioner is glad to learn that the appointment of Mr. Bardalai as Principal of the Assam Land Surveying School has had a beneficial effect on the standard of technical training of the school and has noted the Superintendent's remarks with regard to the loss sustained to the Department by the deputation of Mr. B. C. Gasper to the Indian Army Reserve of Officers. It is hoped that this officer will shortly be released from military duty and so enabled to resume his work as Assistant to the Officer in charge of the Assam Traverse Party and Drawing office.

2. The resettlement operations in Cachar were completed. They yielded an increase of revenue of Rs. 1,66,993 or 31·77 per cent., but, owing to the grant of deferred enhancements this increase will not be taken in full until after the 15th year of the settlement. In the Jaintia parganas the resettlement operations were brought to a close on the 31st of May 1918. The final reports on both resettlements are now under the consideration of the Local Administration. The work of Mr. Scott and his assistants, amongst whom may be mentioned Rai Sahib Debendra Kumar Mukherji, Babu Mahendra Kumar Dam, Maulvi Muhammad Ali and Babu Kamini Kumar Datta, was again distinguished by care and thoroughness. The Chief Commissioner congratulates these officers on the successful completion of the resettlements. The trial of suits under sections 105 and 106 of the Bengal Tenancy Act which remained to be done in connection with the experimental settlement operations in the three permanently-settled parganas in Sylhet was taken up by Babu Phani Bhusan Banerji, Munsif, on deputation from Bengal, and completed between November 1917 and April 1918. The Munsif is to be commended for the great care and accuracy of his work to which the Director of Land Records has drawn attention. Mr. Gimson's final report on this experimental settlement is at present under the consideration of the Local Administration.

The reclassification of the lands taken up after the last resettlement in the district of Nowgong was undertaken and completed during the year. The assessment report is awaited.

3. Certain additions were made to the staff of Patwaris in Jaintia, of Mandals in Darrang, and Supervisor Kanungos in Sylhet, the Garo Hills and Kamrup, where this was shown to be necessary on account of the large extension of cultivation or for other reasons. Attention was paid to the appointment of resident recorders, an important matter which was mentioned in last year's Resolution. There was a slight falling off in the number of resident recorders in the districts of Darrang and Lakhimpur. This was partially counterbalanced by increases in most of the other districts. Deputy Commissioners can exempt a recorder from living in his lot, when to compel him to do so would cause hardship, and there was an increase in the number of recorders so exempted.

4. The state of land records in the Assam Valley Districts is reported to be generally satisfactory and the work of the Circle officers good, but it appears that in the Ilam areas of Sylhet the records are not so well kept and are not so well supervised by the Sub-Deputy Collectors responsible. The Chief Commissioner has read with interest the careful note by the Assistant to the Director of Land Records Rai Sahib Debendra Kumar Mukherji, on his inspections in the various districts. It is apparent from this note that in several districts there is still room for considerable improvement in the maintenance of the land records.

5. The Chief Commissioner is glad to observe that the inspection of Land Records by District Officers in the Assam Valley continued to be satisfactory and that all the Deputy Commissioners devoted a good deal, and in some cases an exemplary amount of attention to the work of the recorders, both in the field and in office. The Director of Land Records in his report has adverted to the question which was mentioned in last year's Resolution of the roster of inspections of Land Records work by himself. Mr. McSwiney is of opinion that the Director could afford to pay more attention to the agricultural side of his work in the cold weather and that land records could without much difficulty be left largely to his Assistant, whose inspection notes would keep the Director in touch with current matters, provided he himself did a few inspections annually. As mentioned in last year's Resolution, the existing practice is that each district should be inspected by the Director of Land Records every second year and by his Assistant in the intervening years. It was stated last year that if the Director finds that it is impossible to maintain this roster system, he is at liberty to submit revised proposals. No such proposals have as yet been received by the Local Administration, and the Chief Commissioner awaits formal proposals from the Director on the subject.

6. The revised edition of the Land Records Manual was issued for use during the year and a scheme for the improvement in the grading of Supervisor Kanungos from the 1st of April 1920 was sanctioned by the Local Administration.

7. The Chief Commissioner is pleased to acknowledge the careful administration of his Department by Mr. McSwiney and has noticed with pleasure the names of the officers who have been specially mentioned by him for their good work.

ORDER.—Ordered that this Resolution and the Reports of the Superintendent, Eastern Circle, Survey of India, in charge Assam Surveys, and the Director of Land Records be published in the *Assam Gazette*.

By order of the Chief Commissioner of Assam,

J. E. WEBSTER,

Chief Secretary to the Chief Commissioner of Assam.

A. S. P. O. (R. & A.) No. 62—200—14-2-1919—E. S.

REPORT

ON THE

SURVEY AND SETTLEMENT OPERATIONS

ASSAM

FOR THE

Year ending 30th September 1919.

132925

SHILLONG:

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V1

ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE

SURVEY AND SETTLEMENT OPERATIONS IN ASSAM

FOR THE

Year ending 30th September 1919.

No. 1567, dated Shillong, the 10th November 1919.

From—Lieutenant-Colonel W. M. COLDSTREAM, R.E., Superintendent, Eastern Circle, Survey of India, in charge Assam Surveys,

To—The Chief Secretary to the Hon'ble the Chief Commissioner of Assam.

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report on the Provincial Survey Department of Assam for the Survey year 1918-19.

Lieutenant-Colonel C. L. Robertson held administrative charge of the Department throughout the year under report, while Mr. A. B. Smart, Deputy Superintendent, remained in the executive charge of the Assam Traverse Party and Drawing Office.

Mr. B. C. Gasper (Extra Assistant Commissioner), assistant to the officer in charge, was employed on military duty for 7 months and rejoined this Department on the 8th March 1919.

REPORT ON THE WORK OF THE ASSAM TRAVERSE PARTY.

A list of survey operations, with brief details of the work done by the Party in each case, is attached.

Technical descriptive details are not given but they are, as usual, filed in my office, and can be referred to at any time.

I give below, in tabular form, a list of those operations which could not be completed during the season, although their completion was included in the programme for the year. The statement shows the work remaining to be done and reasons for non-completion in each case :—

Name of operation	Work remaining to be done. Survey of—	Explanation.
1	2	3
Extension survey in Darrang ...	4 Villages ...	Sickness among the traversers detailed for this work and early setting in of the rains.
Extension survey in Lakhimpur ...	12 Villages ...	Early setting in of the rains at the end of the field season.
Demarcation of the Inter-District boundary between Kamrup and Darrang.	About 51 linear miles.	Sickness among the traversers, death of one khalasi and breaking out of cholera.
Checking of Mechpara-Chapar boundary.	Practically the whole boundary.	Several old marks had disappeared through the action of the river, and a re-traverse of the whole boundary seems necessary, *vide* Local Administration's No. 1715R. of 7th June 1919.

Inspection of Goalpara-Kamrup Boundary.

The Goalpara-Kamrup boundary, for a distance of 38 miles along the Bijni Raj and Gauripur estates, was inspected by the Deputy Commissioners of Goalpara and Kamrup, accompanied by the officer in charge, Assam Traverse Party. It was found that the Kamrup officials had encroached on the Bijni and Gauripur lands in several places. The matter is being dealt with by the two Deputy Commissioners.

The following operations, which were not foreseen at the time of submission of the programme to Government, and were consequently not included in the programme submitted to the Local Administration—*vide* No. 1633-I-8, dated the 9th October 1918, were also carried out during the year under report.

1. *Demarcation of Sylhet-Hill Tipperah boundary.*—This was taken up under the orders of the Local Administration, *vide* No. 785R., of 10th March 1919. Only 7·5 linear miles of the boundary were demarcated, as the Commissioners could not decide two portions of the boundary. About 5 miles of the boundary have yet to be decided and demarcated.

2. *Testing Lankeswari Tea Estate, District Nowgong.*—This grant had been surveyed by one of the Approved Surveyors and it was found by the Sub-Deputy Collector of Kampur Circle that its permanent demarcation did not agree with the Approved Surveyors' map. It was therefore necessary to resurvey the demarcated boundary. The grant was surveyed and a comparative map showing discrepancies was prepared and forwarded to the Deputy Commissioner of Nowgong for necessary action.

3. *Survey of Experimental Fruit Garden, Shillong.*—This was taken up at the request of the Director of Land Records and Agriculture, Assam. New extensions were surveyed and a revised map supplied to Mr. C. H. Holder, Superintendent of the Garden.

4. *Survey of Islington Cottage, Shillong.*—This was taken up at the request of its owner and the cost of survey was borne by him, and the amount paid into the treasury.

5. *Survey of a building site applied for by Mr. Toogood in the town of Shillong.*—This was done at the request of Mr. Toogood and the cost was recovered from him and deposited in the treasury.

Miscellaneous.—A comparative map was prepared to show the boundary between Kamrup and Goalpara according to recent cadastral surveys, Kelso's survey of 1849-53 and MacDonald's survey of 1874-75.

Data and a comparative map of the Guma-Ghurla boundary, district Goalpara, and eight copies of a comparative map of the Sylhet-Hill Tipperah boundary, showing the boundary according to the arbitration map of 1852 and the Revenue Survey map of 1860-61, were supplied to the Director of Surveys, Bengal.

The field season was unfortunately not very healthy. One of the best of the traversers (Babu Gonga Charan Gupta) died on 5th September 1919 of blackwater fever.

Two traversers had to be sent on departmental leave before the close of the field season on account of ill-health.

A khalasi died of cholera and another of influenza while several others were ill from time to time.

Much of the illness among the men appears to have been due to the inhospitable nature of the villagers who would neither allow the surveyors to take shelter in their huts nor to draw drinking water from their wells, and to the lack of suitable tents which had not been provided.

Tents have now been ordered from the Muir Mills Company and will be provided for the surveyors before the beginning of the field season.

DRAWING OFFICE.

(*a*).—Reproduction Section.

The total out-put of the Assam Drawing Office was 20,851 copies of maps, against 42,958 copies in the previous year.

I give below the details of the maps printed, district by district :—

District.	Village map.	Miscellaneous map.	Jurisdiction map.	District map.
1	2	3	4	5
Cachar	30	...	...	...
Darrang	640	...	...	...
Garo Hills	1,410	85	...	...
Goalpara	820	400	...	...
Kamrup	1,510	100	450	...
Khasi and Jaintia Hills ...	...	13,490	...	...
Lakhimpur	60	...	...	...
Naga Hills	...	...	...	...
Nowgong	600	70	...	...
Sibsagar	121	50	...	...
Sylhet	4	...	...	...
Manipur	...	20	...	...
Lushai Hills	...	...	...	...
Miscellaneous	...	991	...	...
Total	5,195	15,206	450	...

(*b*).—Mapping Section.

The following jurisdiction maps of Assam have been printed and distributed :—

1. *Kamrup*, 3 *Circles*, 450 *copies*.—It is hoped that the outturn will be increased when the School maps have been completed, as they shortly will be.

The total recoveries for 'reproduction' work amounted to Rs. 2,177 against Rs. 1,797 for last year.

(*c*).—Record Section.

One hundred and forty-one original cadastral and topographical maps and 182 traces for reproduction were received and racked.

ASSAM LAND SURVEYING SCHOOL.

Mr. G. C. Bardalai was the Principal of the School throughout the year under report.

The officers' training class was opened on 11th November 1918, when one Indian Civil Service Officer, Mr. S. L. Mehta, Assistant Commissioner, and four Sub-Deputy Collectors joined the class.

These officers were trained both in Survey and Settlement. All of them passed the test and have since been declared proficient in Survey and Settlement.

The Special Class commenced on 2nd December and lasted for three months.

Five students who joined this class have qualified and have been given pass certificates.

Twenty-one mandals from different districts attended the Drawing Class, by batches from March to June. Their drawing work was examined and passed by Colonel Robertson and appropriate certificates were granted.

The training of the less efficient of the mandals now serving was undertaken and 21 of them from different districts joined the school from 1st November 1918. The period of training was extended from six weeks to two months. All the 21 mandals were examined at the end of the session and all of them attained the required degree of proficiency.

The ordinary mandal or patwari class was opened as usual on the 2nd January 1919, when 11 candidates from different districts were admitted. They have since been examined; four qualified and seven failed to pass the test. This result is not satisfactory; I am taking steps to ascertain the causes.

The school has sustained the loss of the Second Master (Maulvi Syed Wahidur Rahman) who died of Influenza. He was an experienced teacher and I have not yet been able to find a suitable man to fill the vacancy.

SCHOOL BUILDINGS.

The construction of the Cachari hostel and additions to the Principal's quarters were completed during the year.

The water-supply is not sufficient in the school premises and I am taking action to remedy the same.

The Sub-Assistant Surgeon of Palashbari Dispensary has visited the Survey School periodically to treat the sick.

A sufficient stock of medicine is kept in the school.

INSPECTION.

The Superintendent, Eastern Circle, was not able to inspect the Assam Survey School during the year under report.

SERVICES OF OFFICERS.

Mr. A. B. Smart, Deputy Superintendent, in charge Assam Traverse Party and Drawing Office, has carried out his duties satisfactorily and Colonel Robertson has informed me that his long and wide experience of cadastral work has been of the greatest assistance to the Superintendent. Mr. Smart reports highly of Mr. Gasper, Extra Assistant Commissioner, whose transfer since the close of the year is a serious loss to the department.

Mr. Bardalai has been an energetic Principal of the Assam Land Surveying School.

Colonel Robertson has informed me that Pandit Mam Raj Sharma, the Head Clerk and Head Accountant of the head office, has been of the greatest assistance to him and has proved himself reliable and capable in his duties.

List of Survey Operations (1918-19).

Serial No.	District.	Nature of work with brief description.	Present state of completion.	For Government or Private Agency.
1	2	3	4	5
1	Kamrup ...	Extension traverse for Cadastral Survey.	The remaining 8 villages traversed. Area 15·8 square miles. Plots supplied.	Government.
2	Darrang ...	Ditto ditto ...	23 villages traversed. Area 19·72 square miles. Plots supplied.	Ditto.
3	Garo Hills ...	Ditto ditto ...	3 villages traversed. Area 0·04 square miles. Plots supplied.	Ditto.
4	Sibsagar ...	Ditto ditto ...	16 villages traversed. Area 18·37 square miles. Plots supplied.	Ditto.
5	Lakhimpur ...	Ditto ditto ...	126 villages traversed. Area 62·06 square miles. Plots supplied.	Ditto.
6	Sylhet ...	Ditto ditto ...	5 villages were traversed. Area 2·72 square miles. Plots supplied.	Ditto.
7	Goalpara ...	Ditto ditto ...	138 villages traversed. Area 66·17 square miles.	Private.
7A	Ditto ...	Ditto ditto ...	3 villages, area 41 square miles, were traversed by a Mandal and computations were completed and plots supplied by Traverse Party.	Government.
8	Kamrup—Darrang	Demarcation of the inter-district boundary between Kamrup and Darrang.	23·75 linear miles of boundary were traversed.	Ditto.
9	Goalpara ...	Checking of Mechpara-Chapar boundary.	Work could not be proceeded with—*vide* remarks in the body of the report.	Private.
10	Ditto ...	Demarcation and survey of the Chapar-Gouripur Pargana boundary.	Some portion of the boundary (7 linear miles) was demarcated by the Arbitrator and surveyed and mapped by the Provincial Survey Department. 11·25 linear miles of boundary were demarcated by the Assam Traverse Party and 5 masonry pillars and 64 *sál* posts erected.	Ditto.
11	Sylhet ...	Demarcation of Sylhet-Hill Tippera boundary.	7·5 linear miles of boundary were demarcated and surveyed and 26 concrete blocks erected—*vide* remarks in the body of the report.	Government.
12	Kamrup—Goalpara.	Inspection of Kamrup-Goalpara boundary.	*Vide* remarks in the report.	
13	Nowgong ...	Testing Lankeswari Tea Estate.	Ditto ditto.	
14	Khasi and Jaintia Hills.	Survey of Experimental Fruit Garden, Shillong.	Ditto ditto.	
15	Ditto ...	Survey of Islington Cottage in Shillong.	Ditto ditto.	

W. M. COLDSTREAM, *Lt.-Colonel, R.E.,*
Superintendent, Eastern Circle, Survey of India,
In charge Assam Surveys.

No. 122—275.

FROM

J. McSWINEY, Esq., I.C.S.,

DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF LAND RECORDS AND AGRICULTURE, ASSAM,

To

THE CHIEF SECRETARY TO THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER OF ASSAM.

Dated Shillong, the 17th December 1919.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to submit a report on the work of the Department of Land Records and Settlement in Assam for the year ending the 30th September 1919.

I have the honour to be,

SIR,

Your most obedient Servant,

J. McSWINEY,

Director of Land Records and Agriculture, Assam.

REPORT

ON THE

DEPARTMENT OF LAND RECORDS IN ASSAM

FOR THE

Year ending the 30th September

1919.

PART I.—RESETTLEMENT.

General.

1. We are now in a non-settlement period and I have not much to report. The next settlement to fall in is that of the *Ilam* areas in Sylhet, including Pratabgarh pargana, and this is not due till 31st March 1922. The report of the Commissioner on the economic position of Pratabgarh will be due next year. In the meantime I have recommended and, I understand, have been supported in the proposal, that the resettlement of *Ilam* land should not be taken up by itself, if there is any probability of a survey and record-of-rights for all the permanently-settled area of Sylhet being undertaken within ten years. The new Reforms scheme will apparently throw the whole of the financing of such a survey and settlement on provincial revenues and it is a matter of some doubt whether the initial expenditure, even though most or all of it may be made eventually recoverable, will not prove too great for our resources. My estimate of the cost amounts to Rs. 32 lakhs. The whole question is under the Chief Commissioner's consideration and Mr. Gimson's final report on his work in the *Dassana* or permanently-settled area has not yet been published, though it was submitted in September 1918.

Sylhet-Jaintia Parganas.

2. Mr. Scott's final report on these parganas was received in December 1918 and was submitted to the Local Administration with my letter No. 477—5T., dated 11th January 1919. The actual total immediate enhancement of revenue resulting from this settlement was 18·97 per cent.; that on land held for ordinary cultivation increased from Rs. 1,90,622 to Rs. 2,27,530 or by 19·30 per cent., while there was a slight decrease on land held for tea. The percentage of enhancement is somewhat increased by the cancellation of *pattas* for fluctuating cultivation covering a revenue Rs. 3,854 and the final result is that land which formerly paid Rs. 1,90,428 is now paying Rs. 2,31,149, *i.e.*, the revenue has really been increased by 21·38 per cent.

Other settlement work.

3. The report of the Deputy Commissioner of Nowgong, mentioned in last year's report, on the reclassification of land taken up after the last resettlement of the district, which was completed last year, has just been received. The work has resulted in an increase of revenue by Rs. 11,157 due to the raising of classification and to a large expansion of cultivation, mainly by immigrants from Mymensingh, Sylhet and Cachar.

Similar operations were undertaken in Darrang during the year. In view of the extent of these operations, Srijut Bharat Chandra Das was appointed Special Assistant Settlement Officer for the purpose under the Deputy Commissioner. The progress

made by the 31st October, *i.e.*, one month after the close of the year, when I last inspected it, is detailed in Appendix A. In this district survey operations covering 229 villages traversed by theodolite and 20 based on plane-table boundaries, which were discovered too late to be traversed, were completed with the assistance of a special temporary establishment under the Special Assistant Settlement Officer: the recess work in connection therewith should be completed by 31st of the present month (December). The resettlement of the Longai-Singla disforested area in Pratabgarh pargana, Karimganj, was begun during the year and a new record prepared. Under the Chief Commissioner's orders no alteration was proposed in the rates except those applying to Isabil tea garden, the lease of which had expired in 1912.

The report on the assessment of Tinsukia urban area was submitted during the year and final orders were passed by the Local Administration in March last. The settlement took effect from the 1st April 1919 and will terminate with the current settlement of the district.

In all an area of 424 square miles was surveyed by local agency in all the districts except Cachar and Lakhimpur, as detailed in Appendix D. In the Garo Hills the traverse survey in the plains mauzas was finished except for 9 villages in mauzas VII and VIII: the cadastral survey of mauza VI was completed during the year by the Land Records staff, which also surveyed lands for *jagir* grants to military officers.

PART II.—Land Records.

Recorders.

4. The sanctioned strength of mandals and patwaris for the province was 1,209 on the 30th September 1919, *viz.*, 242 in the 1st grade, 719 in the 2nd grade and 248 in the third grade. During the year under report 9 (4 in Goalpara, 3 in Kamrup and 2 in the Garo Hills) were added to the sanctioned scale. The number actually entertained was 1,208. In almost all the districts large extensions of cultivation have rendered the creation of new lots necessary: the need of such additions to the staff is encouraging as it shows how the country is being opened up, and failure to respond to this demand means the risk of loss of revenue.

The number of resident recorders, including those exempted from residence, has fallen from 1,026 to 1,017 as detailed in Appendix G. The decrease comes mainly from Cachar where there are reported to be 33 non-residents against ten in last year out of a total of 99, and to a lesser extent from Kamrup, where the non-residents have increased from 42 to 54 out of a total of 304. In Cachar the decrease is more apparent than real, because, whereas last year patwaris living within two miles of their lots were shown as resident, they have been shown this year as non-resident: the decrease in the total number of exemptions (255 to 238) is due almost entirely to this alteration. If their residence within two miles does not interfere with the efficient discharge of their duties and if it is not possible to replace them by qualified resident candidates, they should be exempted from the liability of being actually resident. In Kamrup strict enquiries into claims to residence revealed the fact that the staff had tried to comply with the letter and not the spirit of the rule by erecting temporary *bashas* in their lots and consequently this year's statistics represent facts. The small decrease of three out of a total of 14 in the Garo Hills is accounted for by the creation of two new lots, where resident candidates were not available, and the appointment of one resident mandal as Supervisor Kanungo who could not be replaced by a resident man.

Twelve free-studentships were granted during the year in the Jhalukbari Survey School to candidates from lots where resident passed men were not available or to heirs of old resident men who are about to retire.

Supervisor Kanungos.

5. The sanction of the Local Administration was received during the year to the revision of the scale of Supervisor Kanungos according to the proportion of two-thirds in the 1st grade and of one-third in the second grade with effect from 1st April 1920. In fact this scale was sanctioned as far back as the year 1890 in the Local Administration's letter No. 1620R., dated the 15th May 1890, to the address of the Comptroller, Assam, but the orders were forgotten for probably twenty years and were re-discovered in an effort to improve the prospects of this deserving class of officer.

The sanctioned cadre of the Supervisor Kanungos was strengthened by the addition of one post in Sibsagar to meet the creation of a new sub-circle in Golaghat subdivision, where, as mentioned in last year's report, the need for an increase arose from the extension of cultivation and the inconvenient distribution of circles.

Punishments.

6. During the year fines amounting to Rs. 1,555-5-0 were imposed on 749 recorders against Rs. 1,453-14-10 on 830 in the preceding year (Appendix H). The average fine imposed works out at approximately Rs. 2 as against Re. 1-11-11, Re. 1-14-5 and Rs. 2 during the three preceding years. The decrease in the number of those fined is satisfactory, if it represents an improvement in work. Increases have occurred under the heads " absence without leave " and " delay in submission of papers ". Fines under the former head are again most marked in Kamrup on account of continuous attempts to secure regular attendance in the recess : the large increase under the latter head in Lakhimpur indicates want of punctuality in the staff and efforts to remove it. I am glad to note that no fines were imposed on Supervisor Kanungos during the year, but the field allowance of one was stopped by me for bad work.

Travelling allowance.

7. The amounts drawn as travelling allowance (Appendix I) by the Supervisor Kanungos and recorders during the year were Rs. 1,016-7-3 and Rs. 2,974-2-9, respectively, against Rs. 1,052-15-3 and Rs. 2,479-3-8 last year. There were increases in the amounts drawn in Sylhet and Darrang, in the latter of which extension survey and the enforced recess of the Behali circle staff at Tezpur are the causes : in Sylhet the *Ilam* staff draw more travelling allowance than elsewhere on account of the size of their lots and sub-circles. On the other hand, there is a very large and unexplained decrease in Kamrup amounting to 50 per cent. of last year's figures for Kanungos. It is in contemplation to grant the staff halting allowance and free quarters on a more liberal scale in future in order to relieve their difficulties during recess.

In the course of my inspections I have found that charges on account of carriage of records have increased as a natural consequence on the Comptroller's ruling that recorders cannot draw actual expenses like menial servants. These charges fall on the Deputy Commissioner's contract contingencies grant and, even where this grant has been increased, I find that there is a tendency on the part of the Revenue offices to stint expenditure beyond reason when it is owed to the humble staff of recorders. As it is unfair to saddle men on an average pay of Rs. 10 with reasonable charges payable by Government, I hope that the Chief Commissioner will draw the attention of the Deputy Commissioners to the need of avoiding injustice in this matter.

Sub-Deputy Collectors.

8. The work done by the Sub-Deputy Collectors is detailed briefly in Appendix B. On the whole the records are now generally in a fairly satisfactory condition. The Sub-Deputy Collectors continue, with few exceptions, to work energetically and, on the whole, intelligently. In Cachar and the Jaintia Parganas of Sylhet the main feature of their work is field mutation : all those in charge of the four new circles in Silchar and of that of Hailakandi have done very well, while the three officers in Jaintia and Pratabgarh have completed a satisfactory outturn. In the Assam Valley districts good work was done in the Eastern Duars circle of Goalpara, in Gauhati, Chhaygaon, Barpeta and Bojali circles of Kamrup, in all circles in Darrang, especially in the two of Tezpur subdivision, in Nowgong and Roha circles of Nowgong, in Sibsagar circle of Sibsagar and in the two circles of North Lakhimpur subdivision. I would pick out for special mention Babus Surendra Nath Dutta and Kamini Mohan Dutta of Cachar, Babu Biraja Kanta Ghosh of Pratabgarh, Srijut Pampu Singh of Goalpara, Srijuts Jagannath Bujar Barua, Rameswar Saikia and Babu Binod Behari Rai Barman of Kamrup, Srijuts Tarini Charan Sarma and Uma Nath Gohain of Darrang, Srijut Bhola Nath Kakati (now at Tinsukia) and Maulvi Muhammad Anwar Hossein of Nowgong, Srijut Khageswar Barua (now at Kamalpur) and Maulvi Muhibuddin Ahmad of Sibsagar, Srijut Achyutananda Pathak and Maulvi Nasib Ali Mazumdar of Lakhimpur. The list is large, but I believe our standard of efficiency is rising.

Progress of survey.

9. Appendices C and D show the progress of survey in the plains up to the close of the year under review. The former is not particularly appropriate to a province where only two districts contain permanently-settled land and where there is a large amount of land not likely to be surveyed for many years, if ever. I have referred to Appendix D in paragraph 3 above in connection with the area surveyed during the year. The figures for the Sadiya Frontier Tract are not yet available. From the figures in columns 2 and 7 of the Appendix D it will be seen that for 29·79 per cent. of the area cadastral surveys and records were complete on the 30th September 1919. These figures exclude the area which has as yet been traversed only. The total area of the plains includes large stretches of waste land for which detailed maps and records-

of-rights are and will be for many years unnecessary. The permanently-settled portions of Sylhet and Goalpara are the most important outstanding areas. In the former district the survey of the experimental area covering about 90 square miles in three parganas was completed last year, and as noted at the beginning of this report, the question of its extension to the whole district is under consideration. The largest area surveyed in extension was 221 square miles in Kamrup, which included the resurvey on a theodolite traverse of previous plane-table surveys. I have referred to Darrang in paragraph 3. The area surveyed in Goalpara amounted to 32 square miles, covering 25 villages in mauza Chirang, besides the 22 villages in mauza Sidli referred to in paragraph 9 of the previous year's report; some 22 other villages were resurveyed: the survey of two villages in Sidli mauza and the resurvey of 29 villages is proposed to form the programme of next year's work. The area of 35 square miles surveyed in Sylhet lay in Karimganj subdivision in the Singla-Longai disforested tract mentioned in paragraph 3; the work was completed during the year.

Maintenance of the Record.

10. Appendix E gives statistics of the mutations of names effected during the year. There have been increases in the number of *pattas* in Sylhet, Kamrup, Nowgong and Sibsagar, due in the first district to resettlement and in the others to the survey of new extensions of cultivation. The very large increase in the number of mutations in Cachar and Sylhet is the result of the efforts made in the Cachar plains and the Jaintia Parganas of Sylhet to clear up the heavy arrears which have accumulated since the recent resettlements. In all the districts of Assam Valley there have been substantial increases in the mutations effected, which point to the healthy endeavour to keep the record up to date.

The mutation work done by Mauzadars in the Assam Valley districts has been shown separately in column 4 of the Appendix under that done by the Circle officers and indicated by a diacritical mark. The figures show that the assistance is substantial. The highest proportion done by them was 61 per cent. of the total number of mutations in Sibsagar, while in Goalpara, Kamrup and Nowgong the percentages were 56, 52, 45, respectively. In Nowgong there has thus been an improvement this year, but in Lakhimpur the percentage has fallen from 47 to 12, which is anything but satisfactory.

State of Land Records.

11. I inspected the records in all but one of the circles of Kamrup, all four in Darrang and two of Nowgong; in the Surma Valley I inspected Karimganj, Patharkandi, North Sylhet and paid a brief visit to Silchar. My assistant inspected all the remaining circles. I have little new to add to what I said in paragraph 11 of last year's report. The system of field mutations has now been extended to all the *Ilam* areas in Sylhet and when the *Ilam* Circle officers become more accustomed to genuine field work, I am sure that the change will be beneficial to the record and to the officers themselves and their staffs, as they are now inclined to remain in office rather than undertake hardships. In Pratabgarh a programme has been drawn up to bring the record up to date in two years. In Cachar and Jaintia the arrears in mutations are being rapidly overhauled and the officers in charge are working with a will: the decentralisation of Land Records into four circles in Silchar subdivision must make for efficiency. In the Assam Valley districts work is more varied than in the Surma Valley and the staffs in the upper districts are not the most intelligent or hard-working; making allowance for this, I consider that the record is in fair condition, though, when the next resettlements are due, it will probably be necessary to resurvey all the villages, mainly because map reproduction was not done efficiently.

I regret to say that I have not been able to inspect as much as I should have liked and I shall be compelled to do still less in the present year, mainly on account of the more pressing calls from the Agricultural Department. But Rai Sahib Debendra Kumar Mukharji, Assistant Director of Land Records, has more than made up for my deficiencies and I am sure that his careful inspections are appreciated and have had excellent results in all the districts. I give herewith his note on the circles he inspected.

Assistant Director's Report.

I was in charge throughout the year and was out on tour for 277 days including 12 days spent in Shillong. I inspected the work of 565 recorders distributed in 49 sub-circles, 30 circles and 8 districts and ran 29·66 linear miles of check lines. I had also to give settlement training to the officers deputed for the purpose to the Jhalukbari survey camp. A summary of the results of my inspection in the field and in the office is given below. It will be seen that a good beginning has been made to improve the state of the *Ilam* records in Sylhet and to bring about a uniformity of procedure. Field mutation constitutes the main feature of work in Cachar and Jaintia parganas

and an attempt is being made everywhere to clear the heavy arrears that have accumulated since the record attestation at resettlement. In the Assam Valley the records were generally found in a fairly satisfactory condition, but in certain circles no appreciable improvement was noticed and greater supervision over the work of the mandals was required on the part of the Kanungo and the Sub-Deputy Collector.

Golaghat Circle.—More attention should be paid to field mutation and the Sub-Deputy Collector should occasionally read out the periodic *jamabandi* in the presence of the villagers as required by rule 210 of the Land Records Manual. The quality of survey in the block surveyed villages of mauza Barpathar was generally very unsatisfactory and early steps should be taken to have such villages resurveyed under proper supervision. I also noticed certain minor defects and irregularities which should be removed. New vandyke prints should be obtained for the maps of which the stock has run out, as those in the mandals' hands were unfit for use any longer. The Supervisor Kanungo of the Northern sub-circle did not seem to be very careful, while the work done by that of the southern one in the previous year was inadequate.

Sibsagar.

Kamargaon Circle.—The results of the inspection of field work were fairly satisfactory. Efforts should be made to triangulate the remaining villages in the *chapari* and other unsurveyed areas and to resurvey the fluctuating villages in lot No. 4 of Missamara where the survey was found to be very inaccurate. The villages resurveyed in mauzas Namdaiyang and Eastern Rengma should be classed and assessed on the principles of resettlement. The Kanungo's check of *fantferar* and *Jotrahin dags* in the previous year was not complete and his testing of field work in the *chapari* lots insufficient. Mutation work seemed to be up to date.

Jorhat Circle.—In the Jorhat sub-circle the maps of the villages surveyed in extension in mauza Hazari should be checked and passed by the Sub-Deputy Collector and the assessment revised on the resettlement principle. Except in one lot the results of my field inspection were found to be generally satisfactory. Barring a few exceptions the maps and records were, on the whole, in good order and the mutation work fairly up to date.

In the Majuli sub-circle my check lines disclosed serious survey mistakes in 5 out of 9 villages. The errors were chiefly confined to the *dariabadi dags* which had apparently been measured by *tar*. It is to be regretted that in spite of my predecessor's remarks in his last two inspection notes several mistakes were again discovered in land classification. As a safeguard against wrong classification in future the boundaries of the blocks of *basti* and *rupit* land should be marked in the mandal's working maps. Due attention appeared to have been paid to maintenance of survey marks. The faired *chithas* remained to be compared by the Supervisor Kanungo. The Sub-Deputy-Collector should devote more time to check of field work in this sub-circle.

Nazira Circle.—The results of my testing of field work were quite satisfactory in the newly surveyed villages, but not so in the old ones. There was hardly any discrepancy between *chitha* and *jamabandi* and the area calculation and land classification appeared to have been carefully done except in a few lots in the Abhoypur sub-circle. But the mutation work was not well up to date and required the attention of the Sub-Deputy Collector. The fairing of *chithas* appeared to have been somewhat neglected. The work is more difficult in the Abhoypur sub-circle, where cultivation is steadily increasing and there is good deal of survey work to be done, and consequently it is necessary that the Sub-Deputy Collector should exercise closer supervision over the work of the mandals there, many of whom are not quite efficient. Several non-cadastral villages are to be surveyed on new traverse plots. Srijut Khageswar Barua did much to improve the state of the records, but there is still room for further improvement.

Khangia Circle.—I noticed discrepancies between *chitha* and *jamabandi* regarding the names of settlement-holders in certain lots and suggested a systematic comparison of the two for all villages there. Contrary to the provisions of the Land Records Manual annual leases were sometimes converted into periodic before the land had been traversed, surveyed and classed and the survey properly tested by the Supervisor Kanungo and the Sub-Deputy Collector. Faired *chithas* were not compared by the Kanungo in some cases. Greater attention should be paid by the Sub-Deputy Collector to Land Records work here.

Sibsagar Circle.—In the Sibsagar sub-circle the mutation work was well up to date and the records were also in a satisfactory condition, which is creditable to the Sub-Deputy Collector, Maulvi Muhibuddin Ahmed. But the state of work in the Namti sub-circle was somewhat below the required standard, which is probably due to the slackness of the Kanungo, and the Sub-Deputy Collector should pay greater attention to this sub-circle. It is to be regretted that the Sub-Deputy Collector did not get proper help from the mauzadars in the disposal of field mutations. In the Sibsagar sub-circle I came across several cases of over-lapping of *dags* in the maps of contiguous villages and suggested a systematic comparison of the boundaries of all the plane-table survey maps with those of the adjoining cadastral maps. In certain surveyed villages of the South Bank fluctuating group the mandals were found to have classified newly taken up land into *basti*, *rupit* and *faringati*, which should be stopped, and the unclassed waste should be assessed at the rates sanctioned by the Government.

Tinsukia Circle.—Generally speaking the records were nowhere in a healthy condition and the rules of the Land Records Manual were not observed in many respects, the state of the records being more unsatisfactory in Dumduma than in Tinsukia sub-circle. Proper attention was not paid to field mutation and the practice of reading out the *jamabandis* in the presence of the villagers by the Sub-Deputy Collector was unknown. No serious attempt was made to triangulate small non-cadastral villages in spite of the Director of Land Records' orders in his last inspection notes. The maps and *chithas* in certain lots were very old, being in use for 5 or 6 years, and the mutation corrections in the *jamabandi* were not checked by the Supervisor Kanungo. Unassessed land under cultivation was discovered in several lots. Some of the mandals seemed to be inefficient and their work required strict supervision on the part

Lakhimpur.

of the Kanungo and the Sub-Deputy Collector. The Sub-Deputy Collector, Srijut Bholanath Kakati, who joined here lately, was taking up the work in right earnest and it is hoped that he will be able to improve the state of the records before long.

Dibrugarh Circle.— Satisfactory progress was made in triangulating the unsurveyed villages in both the sub-circles, but the new survey remained to be checked by the Sub-Deputy Collector in several villages, chiefly in the North Bank sub-circle. In the Dibrugarh sub-circle the records were fairly up to date, but the mutation work appeared to have been very much neglected in the North Bank sub-circle, although it was not heavy. The Sub-Deputy Collector's personal attention was drawn to this. I pointed out certain other minor defects in procedure which should be removed in future. The results of my check lines were generally satisfactory.

Tengakhat Circle.—A large number of villages had been traversed with theodolite in the last years but no steps were taken to demarcate the theodolite stations. A regular programme should be drawn up to survey these villages. The triangulated villages appeared to have been generally well checked by the Supervisor Kanungo, but not by the Sub-Deputy Collector. I carried out local verification in a few villages and found the mutation work fairly up to date. I noticed unassessed land in certain villages and also found serious survey mistakes in 3 villages of the Dihing sub-circle. Taken as a whole, there was much room for improvement in the state of the records.

Subhansiri Circle.—The records were not quite free from mistakes in certain lots and unassessed land was also discovered by me at some places. But on the whole there has been steady improvement in the condition of the records under the close personal supervision of the Sub-Deputy Collector Maulvi Nasib Ali Mazumdar, who seems to be a keen and energetic officer. This circle contains a very large number of unsurveyed villages and a regular programme should be made to survey a certain number of them by triangulation every year soon after the *dariabadi* papers are filed. The villages surveyed in the previous year appeared to have been properly checked both by the Kanungo and the Sub-Deputy Collector. The results of my field inspection in the non-cadastral areas go to show that extension of cultivation near the boundaries of *dags* already settled often escapes the notice of the mandal, and it is necessary that both the Kanungo and the Sub-Deputy Collector should devote more time to checking the field work in unsurveyed villages.

Ranganadi Circle.—The results of my check lines did not disclose any serious mistakes except in one lot. I noticed certain discrepancies between *chitha* and *jamabandi* due chiefly to omission to effect mutation corrections in the latter. There were also some minor defects and irregularities. The maps of the villages triangulated in the previous year remained to be checked by the Sub-Deputy Collector in some cases. On the whole the records were in fair order, although there was still room for further improvement.

Nowgong.

Reclassification of post settlement *dags* had been completed in the previous year throughout the district and the mandals were provided with copies of new class maps and class books in most cases, but to guard against wrong classification the lines of new class divisions should be shown in the mandal's working maps for all villages containing fluctuating cultivation.

Kampur Circle.—The suggestions left in my previous inspection notes had been generally carried out and the records were found in a better condition, although they were not quite free from mistakes in area calculation. A comparison of the records brought to light certain discrepancies between the *chitha* and *jamabandi* which was chiefly due to omission to give effect to sanctioned mutations in the latter. The faired *chithas* had not been compared by the Kanungo in the Kampur sub-circle in some cases. Traces of the new maps of the resurveyed villages should be prepared and sent up for vandyking. The settled area in unsurveyed villages should be assessed at the uniform rate of 8 annas a *bigha* and the present practice of classing it as *kasti, rupit* and *faringati* should be stopped. More attention should be paid to inspection of survey marks.

Raha Circle.—Taken as a whole the maps and records were generally found in very good condition except in mauza Mikirbheta, which required the attention of the Sub-Deputy Collector. The copies of the new class maps of that mauza should also be carefully checked by the Kanungo with the original. No serious mistakes in area calculation were discovered except in a few lots of the Raha sub-circle. The Sub-Deputy Collector practically received no help from the mauzadars of the Jagi-road and Raha sub-circles in the disposal of field mutations; due attention appeared to have been paid to maintenance of survey marks. This is a heavy circle and the Sub-Deputy Collector, Maulvi Anwar Hussain, deserves great credit for his careful and strict supervision over the work of the mandals in every respect.

Kamrup.

Here I examined the papers of the mandals of only four sub-circles, *viz.*, Tambulpur, Barkhetri, Raha and Barpeta. The state of the records in Barkhetri and Barpeta was fairly satisfactory, and barring a few mistakes in area and land classification and some minor defects which I pointed out, there was nothing wrong. But there were some old mutation entries in mauza Uparbarbhag of the Barkhetri sub-circle and in a few villages of the Barpeta sub-circle which should be quickly disposed of. The *chithas* of mauza Uparbarbhag should be systematically compared with the *jamabandi* and the discrepancies in the names of the settlement-holders between the two reconciled.

The condition of the records in the other two sub-circles was, however, far from satisfactory. Some of the mandals are not up to the mark and their work requires more strict supervision. The present method of assessment of new land taken up from waste was incorrect in both the sub-circles. In future the assessment should be made in accordance with the final orders of the Director of Land Records on the subject recently issued. I noticed a large number of mistakes in area and land classification which showed lack of proper supervision. In villages containing fluctuating cultivation it would be more convenient to mark the boundaries of the blocks of different classes of land in the working maps of the mandals to guard against wrong classification in future.

Eastern Duars Circle.—I inspected work in three sub-circles, *viz.*, Bijni, Sidli and Sarfanjuri. Bad survey mistakes were found in certain lots of the Bijni sub-circle, but elsewhere the results were fairly satisfactory. The records were not free from mistakes in area calculation, as a large number of such mistakes were discovered by me in the course of my inspection. In Sidli a good many villages had been cadastrally surveyed in the previous year, but it is satisfactory that the field work was sufficiently checked by the Kanungo and the Sub-Deputy Collector. Greater attention should be paid to keep the records up to date. The defects in the present system, under which mutation is sanctioned by the Raja of Sidli on getting a list of unregistered *dakhalkars* from the Sub-Deputy Collector, were brought to the notice of the Deputy Commissioner, so that necessary action might be taken to prevent the records falling out of date. Due attention appeared to have been paid to maintenance of survey marks. The circle seems to be too heavy to be efficiently managed by one Sub-Deputy Collector.

Goalpara.

My inspection was confined to the extension survey that was going on in mauza VI. On the whole the work appeared to have been carefully done and properly checked by the Kanungo and the Sub-Deputy Collector. The attention of the Sub-Deputy Collector was drawn to the following points :—(1) Summary settlement of disputes in the field, (2) land classification, (3) reservation of land for grazing, (4) erection of survey marks, (5) preparations of the final maps for vandyking, and (6) issue of periodic leases. The Sub-Deputy Collector, Babu Har Kumar Das, showed considerable energy and seemed to be doing his work quite well.

Garo Hills.

Here the nature of work is almost the same in all the five circles. The patwaris have practically no work in connection with the survey of new land—there being little or no culturable waste available for settlement—and their main duties consist of (1) the recording of field mutations in the *chitha*, (2) the writing of crops, and (3) the inspection of survey marks. Satisfactory progress was made everywhere in connection with field mutation and due attention appeared to have been paid to inspection of survey marks in most of the circles. In the course of my field inspection I tested the accuracy of the mutations recorded and sanctioned in the *chitha* and found the results to be generally satisfactory except in Bonraj and Udharband sub-circles where I noticed certain careless mistakes. I also read out the periodic *jamabandis* in the presence of the villagers and noticed unrecorded changes of possession more or less in all the sub-circles except Barakpar where the work appeared to have been done thoroughly and methodically under the close supervision of the Sub-Deputy Collector, Babu Surendra Nath Datta. I pointed out certain defects in recording mutations or in making mutation corrections in the records which should be avoided in future. The preparation of a new and complete record of survey marks requires the attention of the Sub-Deputy Collectors in all the circles. A systematic effort should also be made to correct the clerical mistakes in the names of the settlement-holders that are found in the new settlement records.

Cachar.

Kanairghat Circle.—There is hardly any room for extension of cultivation in most of the lots but whatever new land was taken up since the resettlement was properly classed and assessed and the area calculation carefully done. The assessment of local rates on new pattas was, however, wrongly made in both the sub-circles and should be revised. More attention should be paid to field mutation and efforts should be made to clear up the arrears that have accumulated since the record attestation at resettlement. New *mujmulis* and registers of survey marks were completed and satisfactory progress was made in the inspection of such marks by the patwaris.

Sylhet.

Gowainghat Circle.—More supervision over the work of the patwaris' field work was required on the part of the Kanungos in the Jaintiapur and Gowainghat sub-circles. Except in Gowainghat the records were generally found to be free from mistakes in area calculation. My previous instructions for the resurvey of all annual land taken up between the record attestation and the close of the settlement operations had not been carried out. New *mujmulis* and registers of survey marks were to be prepared during the recess on completion of their inspection in the field by the patwaris. Fair progress was made in the recording of field mutations in the *chitha*, but the work must not be relaxed till the records are brought up to date. I pointed out certain defects in procedure in this connection which should be removed. Steps should be taken to remove the clerical errors in the names of the settlement-holders from the resettlement records in the manner suggested by me. Of the three sub-circles, Piyaingul appeared to be efficiently managed by the Kanungo. The Sub-Deputy Collector should therefore pay greater attention to Jaintiapur and Gowainghat sub-circles.

Ilam.—I inspected *ilam* work in four subdivisions, *viz.*, North Sylhet, South Sylhet, Habiganj and Sunamganj. The instructions given by me last year had been generally carried out and I noticed improvement in the state of the records more or less everywhere. Unnecessary and untraceable survey marks were excluded and a complete revised list thereof was prepared with the approval of the Deputy Commissioner. Generally speaking the survey marks originally demarcated by earthen mounds, which had disappeared on the ground, were written off. New *mujmulis* of survey marks were either ready or in the course of preparation. Inspection of survey marks appeared to have been somewhat neglected in Sunamganj and North Sylhet. The system of field mutation was introduced in these two subdivisions during the latter part of the year and necessary instructions were given by me in that connection. But it is to be regretted that absolutely no progress in field mutation work was made in South Sylhet subdivision, where it had been introduced in the previous year. I think it is necessary to have a whole time Sub-Deputy Collector here for the proper management of the land records work. I noticed that the practice of classifying new land taken up from waste for assessment purpose still continued in some circles. This should be stopped and all such land should in future be assessed at the lowest cultivation rates of the circle in which it is situated without classification. Resettlement proposals of the time-expired mahals in the North Sylhet subdivision remained to be submitted although their resurvey had been completed.

Inspection by Deputy Commissioners and Subdivisional Officers.

12. In the Assam Valley districts Mr. Bentinck in Kamrup, Mr. Soames in Darrang and Mr. Dawson in Nowgong were most effective in inspecting and, what is more important than running of partals, kept their staff up to the mark. I regret to say that there is no information of what was done in Sibsagar, though I am sure that Mr. Allen did a good deal. In Lakhimpur and Goalpara much more might have been done. The Subdivisional Officers of Barpeta, Mangaldai and North Lakhimpur paid fairly satisfactory attention to Land Records, but I cannot say the same for the rest. I cannot understand why the head of the district can do and does more than his assistants in subdivisions. In the Surma Valley the Subdivisional Officers of Sylhet are reported to have checked the records: even allowing for the scattered area of *ilam* I think that they might do much more, though I would except the Subdivisional Officer of Karimganj from this criticism. From Cachar nothing is reported, but I know that Mr. Edwards paid particular attention to the establishment of the new circles.

Survey marks.

13. Appendix F contains the results of the inspection of survey marks. Although increasing attention has beed paid to the verification of survey marks and efforts have been made to get at the correct figures, large variations are reported from some districts from year to year. The differences in the year under report are said to be due almost entirely to the same reasons as in the previous year, *viz.*:—

(*a*) Recovery of lost survey marks.

(*b*) Erection of new marks on the boundaries of grazing reserves, in the areas newly traversed and in the villages surveyed cadastrally for the first time.

(*c*) Washing away of marks by rivers.

(*d*) Loss of marks in deep and inaccessible jungle.

There has been a decrease of about 5,300 marks, mainly due to the abolition of those found to be unnecessary, but there has been a small increase in the number of marks found in good order. The number lost and left unvisited has also decreased, which is satisfactory, but the percentage of such marks, which is over 10, is still high. Full effect could not as yet be given to my instructions to abandon those stations on traverse lines which are not on bends or trijunctions or were not required for the identification of these latter marks. With the abandonment of all such marks both the ascertainment of correct numbers and the maintenance of them should be facilitated and the present figures show that we are moving in the right direction.

PART III.—MISCELLANEOUS.

Changes and Reforms.

14. There were no important reforms during the year. With the revised Land Records Manual, which contains all the desired reforms regarding the proper maintenance of records, very little remains at present to be done in this direction. I have already referred in paragraph 10 to the suggestion, which was mentioned also in paragraph 14 of last year's report, that the conditions of recessing might be improved and a more liberal grant of halting allowances during the recess is under consideration. It came to my notice during the year that under the orders of the Government of India conveyed in letter No. 1305-448-2, dated the 7th December 1910, embodied as item 7A in appendix 4 to Civil Service Regulations, a recorder while acting as Kanungo draws Rs. 30 per mensem as pay, *i.e.*, the full pay of the 2nd grade of that appointment, but the permanent Kanungo, when on leave other than privilege leave, is very seriously affected by this concession and can get only Rs. 4 or so per mensem as leave allowance under Article 147(iii) of Civil Service Regulations. This operates very harshly on the permanent men. A proposal has been submitted to the Local Administration to exempt permanent Kanungos from the operation of the above article and to grant them half pay as leave allowance in such cases.

15. I was in charge of the department for the whole year and spent 153 days on tour. My inspections have already been referred to. I wish again to testify to the good work done by the Assistant Director, Rai Sahib Debendra Kumar Mukerji.

J. McSWINEY,

Director of Land Records and Agriculture, Assam.

APPENDIX A.

Progress return for re-classification of villages to 31st October 1919.

District.	Number of villages.	Map inking finished.	Area calculation finished.	Comparing of classing finished.	Jamabandi finished.	Lot settlement abstract.	Number of mauzas.	Number of mauzas for which dauls submitted.	Remarks.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Darrang	1,098	1,098	1,094	964	810	257	37	5	

APPENDIX B.

Work statement of Sub-Deputy Collectors for the year ending 30th September 1919.

Name of Circle or Subdivision.	Name of Sub-Deputy Collector.	Number of recorders in the circle.	Number of recorders whose papers were checked.	Number of villages in the circle.	Number of villages visited.	Number of check lines run.	Total length of check lines run.	Number of *chitha* entries tested.	Number of *chitha* entries found incorrect.	Number of theodolite station marks inspected.	Number of mutation and partition cases effected on the spot.	Number of mutation cases done in the office.	Name of Kanungo.	Character of each Kanungo's work during the year.	Remarks.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
CACHAR.															
Banskandi Circle ...	Maulvi Muhammad Ali ...	29	28	354	221	...	...	3,364	106	111	5,038	734	Shyma Charan Guha ...	Fair.	
													Basarat Ali ...	Fair.	
													Khurshed Ali ...	Not satisfactory.	
Katigara „ ...	Babu Kamini Mohan Datta...	16	16	187	160	...	...	3,171	...	28	9,282	135	Ramdoyal Chakravarty	Satisfactory.	
Silchar „ ...	Babu Surendra Nath Datta	25	25	296	178	...	43·71 chains.	1,751	...	102	14,314	1,544	Jogesh Chandra Mitra...	Did well ...	Completed survey of village Gangapur left over by Settlement Officer.
													Peary Mohan Bhattacharji.	Good.	
Narsingpur „ ...	Babu Bishwanath Chaudhury, from 4th July 1919.	21	11	243	24	...	9·90 chains.	1,625	...	...	352	99	1. ...	Satisfactory	
													2. ...		
Hailakandi Subdivision.	Babu Bansi Badan Sarma ...	29	29	278	98	...	19·25 chains.	898	...	74	9,960	159	Dinanath Ghosh ...	Good.	
													Ram Mati Mukherjee... and Nabin Chandra Datta...	Did well.	
SYLHET.															
Sadar ...	Babu Biraja Kanta Roy Dastidar.	3	3	918	38	13	360·00	540	7	53	...	...	Golok Chandra Kar ...	Tolerable.	
													Ishan Chandra Das, Offg.	Satisfactory,	
Karimganj ...	„ Ananda Bihari Mitra / „ Tara Charan Desamukhya.	4	4	570	120	5	59·03	1,639	11	164	386	65	Chandra Kumar Bose	Fair.	

Patharkandi ...	„ Biraja Kanta Ghosh ...	16	16	209	46	22	13·72	2,480	9	186	2,294	55	Abdul Hussein ...	Efficient.		
Sunamganj ...	„ Srish Chandra De ...	3	3	163	20	18	222·11	263	34	9	...	...	Gopal Chandra Chatterjee.	Good.		
South Sylhet ...	„ Surendra Nath Chaudhuri.	5	5	929	61	3	37·90	436	...	55	52	...	Hridoy Chandra Ghosh	Good.		
Habiganj ...	Maulvi Darajuddin Ahmad...	2	2	535	36	3	27·71	162	5	165	...	...	Janaki Nath De ...	Good.		
Gowainghat ...	„ Masrafulla ...	30	30	451	233	16	291·52	989	51	42	5,523	92	Jajneswar Dutta ...	Fair.		
													Hari Mohan Das ...	Good.		
													Madaris Ali ...	Fair.		
Kanaighat ...	„ Abdul Wahid ...	20	20	269	246	25	240·63	240	15	250	5,211	226	Fazil Baksh ...	Good.		
													Haradayal Sarma ...	Good.		
GOALPARA.																
Eastern Duars ...	Srijut Pampu Singh ...	45	45	763	230	...	67·75 miles.	1,803	143	278	198	...	1. Ratiram Das ...	Experienced and useful.	B. k. 1. 10 1 8 concealed cultivation was discovered.	
													2. Jatraram Das ...	Not very satisfactory.		
													3. Broja Mohan Das.	Quite satisfactory.		
													4. Kamalnath Das ...	Showing improvement.		
KAMRUP.																
Gauhati Sadar circle.	Srijut Jagannath Bujar Barua	38	38	325	226	19	7·78 miles.	4,113	230	310	1,960	202	1. Kayaram Talukdar...	Satisfactory ...	1·23 acres of concealed cultivation was discovered.	
													2. Dhaniram Das ...	Ditto.		
Chhaigaon Circle ...	Babu Krishna Behari Roy Choudhuri.	45	44	393	263	70	28·48	3,021	196	185	885	57	1. Sibram Das ...	Fair.		
													2. Sarat Chandra Choudhuri.	Tolerable.		
Kamalpur	Srijut Devanada Bharali, from 1st October 1918 to 18th July 1918.	40	35	292	143	10	4·50 miles.	1,750	139	226	273	130	Jagannath Deka ...	Thorough going and pains-taking.		
	„ Premadhar Gohain from 19th July 1919 to 31st August 1919.		6		16	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	Offg. Gangaram Das ...			
	„ Khogeswar Barua from 1st September 1919 till end of the year.		11		14	...	...	8	2	6	64	37	Illias Ali ...	Tolerable.		
Rangiya ...	Maulvi Nurul Hussein Hazarika from 1st October 1918 to 15th May 1919.	47	20	330	82	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Bhagirath Das ...	Good.		
	Srijut Premadhar Gohain from 15th May 1919 till end of the year.		30		48	...	...	242	7	14	2	24	Rupram Chaudhury ...	Fairly satisfactory ...	Also held charge of Kamalpur Circle from 18th July 1919 to 31st August 1919.	

APPENDIX B—*contd.*

Work statement of Sub-Deputy Collectors for the year ending 30*th September* 1919.

Name of Circle or Subdivision.	Name of Sub-Deputy Collector.	Number of recorders in the circle.	Number of recorders whose papers were checked.	Number of villages in the circle.	Number of villages visited.	Number of check lines run.	Total length of check lines run.	Number of *chitta* entries tested.	Number of *chitta* entries found incorrect.	Number of theodolite station marks inspected.	Number of mutation and partition cases effected on the spot.	Number of mutation cases done in the office.	Name of Kanungo.	Character of each Kanungo's work during the year.	Remarks.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
KAMRUP—*concld.*															
Nalbari ...	Srijut Hari Prasad Das (was in charge of both this and Northern Nalbari for the whole year).	32	12	210	29	...	...	3,075	...	...	...	183	Durgaram Dutta ...	Good.	
	,, Nabahash Goswami, attached for 235 days.		32		113	...	...	95	...	103	467 pattas, 229 *dags*.	187	Dhaturam Tahbildar ...	Fair.	
Tihu ...	Srijut Hari Prasad Das ...	27	27	136	127	1	30·65 chains.	3,431	342	352	231	251	Purnananda Chaudhury	Satisfactory ...	1·87 acres of concealed cultivation was discovered.
													Ugranath Sarma ...	Worked well.	
Barpeta Circle ...	Srijut Rameswar Saikia ...	32	32	399	317	91	2,650·64 chains.	4,242	106	204	210	44	.....	.....	
Bojali Circle ...	Babu Binode Behari Roy Barman, from 1st October 1918 to 1st May 1919.	40	38	236	148	35	12·64 miles.	3,644	167	267	636	99	Birahuram Deka ...	Satisfactory.	
	,, Tarini Charan Chaudhury, from 2nd May 1919 to the end of the year.		30		...	35	17·03 miles.	656	...	86	302	79	Sitaram Das ...	Ditto.	

DARRANG.																
Tezpur Circle ...	Srijut Tarini Charan Sarma	32	32	284	284	102	38·73 miles.	18,434	340	556	1,087 mutation, 25 partition.	86	Ratikanta Das ...	Satisfactory.		
													Phultungram Deka ...			
Behali Circle ...	„ Umanath Gohain, from 6th November 1918 to the end of the year.	32	32	349	290	114	49·78 miles.	11,261	334	310	568	78	Jogeswar Hazarika ...	Good ...	During the year under report reclassification of all the unclassed post resettlement *dags* was carried out throughout the circle.	
													Ratneswar Saikia ...	Good.		
Mangaldai Circle...	„ Ramananda Chowdhury	45	45	352	306	25	8·21 miles.	15,346	630	395	735 mutation, 46 partition.	170	Maniram Saikia ...	Very satisfactory ...	Ditto ditto.	
													Jagat Chandra Saharia	Ditto ...	3·48 acres of concealed cultivation was also discovered.	
Kalaigaon ...	„ Premadhar Gohain, from 1st October 1918 to 13th May 1919.	43	33	510	80	3	58·00 chains.	699(*a*)	47	23	51	...	Nomal Chandra Saharia	Fair ...	Reclassification of post resettlement *dags* was also in progress during the year.	
	Maulvi Talmizur Rahman, from 13th May 1919 to the close of the year.		39		331	29	904·13 chains.	1,958(*a*)	...	148	61	3	Harinath Deka ...	Not satisfactory ...	(*a*) Excluding reclassification *dags*.	
NOWGONG.																
Nowgong Circle...	„ Bholanath Kakati, from 1st October 1918 to 12th December 1918.	53	21	446	32	...	...	...	...	...	1	7	Bissro Sing ...	Satisfactory.		
													Surat Chandra Bora ...	Ditto.		
													Chandra Kanta Bhuyan	Ditto.		
	„ Troilokyeswar Bhuyan, from 23rd December 1918 to the close of the year.		52		281	80	2,915·92 chains.	2,972	661	486	425 mutation, 15 partition.	92	.....	.....	Also held charge of Samaguri circle for 40 days.	
Kampur Circle ...	Maulvi Habibur Rahman ...	32	32	243	171	23	5·58 miles.	794	58	258	846 pattas, 1,756 *dags*.	12	Sreenath Bora ...	Very satisfactory.		
													Bholanath Laskar ...	Fair.		
Roha Circle ...	Maulvi Muhammad Anwar Hosain.	58	50	474	124	31	14·22 miles.	1,974	71	359	3,916 mutation, 400 partition.	34	Kinaram Sarma ...	Quite satisfactory.		
													Dinanath Sarma ...			
													Durgaram Das ...			
Samaguri Circle	Srijut Uma Charan Gohain (on leave), from 1st October 1918 to 14th February 1919.	36	9	276	24	...	...	445	18	64	30	2	Govinda Chandra Saikia	Fairly satisfactory ...	Did also remission work in Kampur circle.	
	Babu Kunja Bihari Nandi, from 27th March 1919 to the close of the year.		32		136	45	18·7 miles.	1,229	73	258	168	35	Hemaram Hazarika...	Ditto.		

APPENDIX B—*concld.*

Work statement of Sub-Deputy Collectors for the year ending 30th September 1919.

Name of Circle or Subdivision.	Name of Sub-Deputy Collector.	Number of recorders in the circle.	Number of recorders whose papers were checked.	Number of villages in the circle.	Number of villages visited.	Number of check lines run.	Total length of check lines run.	Number of *chitha* entries tested.	Number of *chitha* entries found incorrect.	Number of theodolite station marks inspected.	Number of mutation and partition cases effected on the spot.	Number of mutation cases done in the office.	Name of Kanungo.	Character of each Kanungo's work during the year.	Remarks.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
SIBSAGAR.															
Jorhat Circle ...	Srijut Bipin Chandra Bardalai	29	29	261	175	19	9·35 miles.	3,616	112	207	487 mutation, 75 partition.	115	Mohiram Das ...	Satisfactory ...	Was also in charge of Mariani Circle from 11th December 1918 to 6th March 1919.
	Maulvi Majidur Rahaman from 1st October 1918 to 20th October 1918.		4		18	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Phanidhar Kakati ...	Fair.	
Khangia' ,, ...	Srijut Bipin Chandra Bardalai.	11	11	94	36	...	...	...	...	...	...	54	Sibanath Sarma ...	Tolerable.	
	Syed Sheikhul Moshaik Chisti, for 36 days.		10		71	...	...	337	...	...	...	...	.....	.....	
Sibsagar ,, ...	Maulvi Muhibuddin Ahmed...	38	38	359	272	16	5·42 miles.	3,890	53	457	2,603	370	Umes Chandra Sarma...	Good.	
													Tarun Chandra Sarma	Fair.	
Nazira ,, ...	Maulvi Nurul Hussain Hazarika, from 23rd May 1919 to the close.	38	18	380	76	8	269·98 chains.	640	9	110	513	127	Jonaram Gogoi ...	Middling.	
	Maulvi Muhibuddin Ahmad, from 4th March 1919 to 27th May 1919.		...		34	6	2·22 miles.	172	2	40	128	25	Kinaram Das ...		

														Muhiram Datta ...	Satisfactory.
Moriani „ ...	Maulvi Syed Sheikhul Moshaik Chisti, from 27th January 1919 to the close.	37	37	353	188	34	724·65 chains.	1,714	96	222	1,134 mutation, 164 partition.	60	Boparam Das, officiating	Ditto.
													Parsuram Barthakur...	Not very satisfactory.
Golaghat „ ...	Maulvi Muhammad Muhibullah.	40	40	335	236	33	1,595·58 chains.	3,472	85	293	961 mutation, 5 partition.	167	Bhakatram Dutta ...	Satisfactory.
													Muhidhar Barua ...	
Kamargaon „ ...	„ Majidur Rahman, from November 11th to December 8th 1918 and from 8th January 1919 to the close of the year.	17	17	191	123	18	9·25 miles.	3,160	96	219	232 mutation, 5 partition.	33	Mohan Chandra Bardalai.	Fair.
LAKHIMPUR.															
Dibrugarh Circle ...	Maulvi Fazlur Rahman ...	30	30	344	243	26	11·77 miles	6,569	101	690	627	27	Jatiram Das ...	Satisfactory.
													Pabit Chandra Das ...	
Tinsukia „ ...	Srijut Bholanath Kakati ...	27	27	251	233	20	5·75 miles.	633	15	113	1,733	10	Golok Chandra Das ...	Fairly well.
	„ Kalpa Narayan Mazumdar.		19		11	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	Khogeswar Gogoi ...	
Tengakhat „ ...	Srijut Annada Charan Bhattacharya.	34	20	607	48	6	3·19 miles.	135	3	3	51	6	Dimbeswar Gogoi ...	Good.
	Maulvi Fazlur Rahaman ...		...		28	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	.....	
	„ Amanat Ali Khandkar		...		7	...	...	...	...	...	...	11	Dinanath Gogoi ...	
Ranganadi „ ...	Srijut Achyutananda Pathak	20	20	270	257	51	18 74 miles.	4,716	317	517	934	33	Mohiram Gogoi ...	Satisfactory.
													Offg. Bhogiram Saikia	Fairly well.
Subansiri „ ...	Maulvi Nasib Ali Majumdar...	16	16	230	214	63	22 miles.	3,267	186	286	785	2	Sibnath Deka ...	Satisfactory.
GARO HILLS.															
Plains Circle ...	Babu Harkumar Das ...	14	14	380	95	105	39·34 miles.	8,239	503	526	151 mutation, 9 partition.	...	Holiram Das ...	Worked well.
													Gaurikanta Pal ...	

APPENDIX C.

["Permanently-settled" in this table includes "revenue free."]

District.	Classification of district area (square miles).			Area for which a cadastral survey and record-of-rights are completed (square miles).			Area for which a cadastral survey and record-of-rights were being prepared in 1918-19 (square miles).			Area outstanding (square miles).			Remarks.
	Permanently-settled.	Not permanently-settled.	Total.	Permanently-settled.	Not permanently-settled.	Total.	Permanently-settled.	Not permanently-settled.	Total.	Permanently-settled.	Not permanently-settled.	Total.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Cachar	3	3,766	3,769	3	1,063	1,066	...	...	...	...	2,703	2,703	
Sylhet	3,825	1,555	5,380	89	877	966	...	34	34	3,736	644	4,380	
Goalpara	2,528	1,433	3,961	...	625	625	...	...	...	2,528	808	3,336	
Kamrup	53	3,805	3,858	53	2,881	2,934	...	...	...	...	924	924	
Darrang	8	3,398	3,406	8	1,204	1,212	...	73	73	...	2,121	2,121	
Nowgong	4	3,839	3,843	4	1,164	1,168	...	...	...	...	2,636	2,636	
Sibsagar	62	4,934	4,996	62	1,839	1,901	...	25	25	...	3,070	3,070	
Lakhimpur	3	3,977	3,980	3	735	738	...	...	...	...	3,242	3,242	
Garo Hills	...	3,140*	3,140	...	63†	63	...	1†	1†	...	3,076†	3,076	
Total	6,486	29,847	36,333	222	10,451	10,673	...	133	133	6,264	19,224	25,488	

* Includes hill tracts also.
† Actual figures.

APPENDIX D.

Progress of Extension Surveys for the year ending the 30th September 1919.

Name of district.	Total area of district (square miles).	Area surveyed by professional party (square miles).	Area surveyed in extension by village recorders.			Total area cadastrally surveyed (square miles).	Remarks.
			Previously (square miles).	During the year under report (square miles).	Total (square miles).		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Cachar ...	3,769	1,034	32	...	32	1,066	
Sylhet ...	5,380	545	420	35	455	1,000	
Goalpara ...	3,961	...	593	32	625	625	
Kamrup ...	3,856	1,966	747	221	968	2,934	
Darrang ...	3,406	1,045	167	102	269	1,314	
Nowgong ...	3,843	1,012	148	8	156	1,160	
Sibsagar ...	4,996	1,521	380	25	405	1,926	
Lakhimpur ...	3,980	269	469	...	469	738	
Garo Hills ...	3,140	...	63	1	64	64	
Total ...	36,331	7,392	3,019	424	3,443	10,827	

APPENDIX E.

Name of district.	Classification of *pattas*.	Total number of *pattas*.	Number of (*pattas* or portions of *pattas*) transfers.		Number of (*pattas* or portions of *pattas*) transfers by—				Area, in acres, transferred by—				Remarks.
			By summary procedure.	By regular procedure.	Sale or usufructuary mortgage.		Succession.	Other causes.	Sale or usufructuary mortgage.		Succession.	Other causes.	
					Under decree by civil court.	By private gift or contract.			Under decree of civil court.	By private gift or contract.			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Cachar ...	Periodic khiraj.	82,024	39,623	843	189	17,317	21,258	1,702	499	26,154	25,459	1,858	
Sylhet ...		61,877	10,134	301	221	3,390	5,821	992	443·98	3,870·38	5,805	1,768·32	
Goalpara ...		4,882	198 253(a)	70	6	284	156	75	130	1,365	900	203	
Kamrup ...		261,642	5,692 6,392(a)	477	214	3,390	7,699	1,258	818·91	5,280·82	18,605·92	2,329·66	
Darrang ...		*	5,351	333	31	2,587	2,641	441	77·92	4,256·50	7,224·12	719·47	* Not available as dauls not ready.
Nowgong ...		71,121	2,712 2,211(a)	66	8	1,578	3,185	218	29·42	1,891·90	6,239·33	199·66	
Sibsagar ...		173,529	4,237 6,770(a)	1,024	149	3,893	7,292	697	333	7,194	17,521	977	
Lakhimpur ...		61,610	4,959 698(a)	49	17	1,878	5,799	140	39	5,151	12,026	293	
Garo Hills ...		2,629	151 4(a)	..	...	33	122	...	...	166	745	...	
Total ...		739,314	73,057 16,328(a)	3,163	835	34,350	51,973	5,523	2,371·23	55,329·60	94,625·37	8,358·11	
Cachar ...	Lakhiraj.	83	9	1	...	4	6	...	...	...	21	...	
Sylhet ...		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Goalpara ...		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Kamrup ...		38	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Darrang ...		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Nowgong ...		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Sibsagar ...		81	1(a)	...	...	1	...	...	...	6	...	...	
Lakhimpur ...		5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Garo Hills ...		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Total ...		211	10	1	...	5	6	...	...	6	21	...	
Cachar ...	Nishkhiraj.	32	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Sylhet ...		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Goalpara ...		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Kamrup ...		3,240	71 219(a)	43	12	135	161	25	142·40	787·61	2,007·50	528·62	
Darrang ...		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Nowgong ...		24	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Sibsagar ...		495	1(a)	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	
Lakhimpur ...		60	8	...	...	...	8	...	...	...	102	...	
Garo Hills ...		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Total ...		3,851	299	43	12	135	170	25	142·40	787·61	2,109·51	528·62	

(a) By mauzadars.

APPENDIX F.

Condition of survey marks during the year ending 30th September 1919.

No.	Classification.	Total number of marks.	Total number found in good order.	Number found not in good order.		Total of columns 4 and 5 in good order on 1st October 1918.	Number lost or left unvisited.
				Repaired.	Not repaired.		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	Theodolite stations—						
	(i) Stone prisms	15,613	13,849	668	417	14,517	644
	(ii) Square stones	14,774	9,023	78	207	9,101	1,521
	(iii) Other marks	100,525	56,364	19,342	9,170	75,706	14,481
2	Boundary marks of districts, etc. (other than theodolite stations)—						
	(i) Stone prisms	729	527	...	...	527	29
	(ii) Square stones	2,808	593	1	20	594	495
	(iii) Other marks	9,613	6,143	1,672	1,349	7,815	958
3	Boundary marks of private property (other than theodolite stations)—						
	(i) Stone prisms	5,764	5,551	44	56	5,595	120
	(ii) Square stones	15,613	14,339	117	159	14,456	817
	(iii) Other marks	8,155	6,307	357	1,305	6,664	1,056
4	Kanungo's mounds	15,129	7,527	1,476	1,223	9,003	1,284
5	Grazing reserve	15,493	6,087	3,538	1,942	9,625	129
6	Fuel reserve	26	10	11	5	21	...
	Total	204,242	126,320	27,304	15,853	153,624	21,534

APPENDIX G.

Statement showing resident and non-resident Recorders on the 30th September 1919.

Name of district.	Number of resident mandals and patwaris.	Number of non-resident mandals and patwaris.	Number of mandals and patwaris who have been exempted by superior orders.	Total.	Number of mandals and patwaris who have become resident or been exempted during the year under report.	Remarks.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Cachar	43	33	23	99	5	
Sylhet	56	9	8	73	...	
Goalpara	32	5	8	45	3	The non-resident mandals are new and will become residents gradually.
Kamrup	172	54	77	303	7	
Darrang	89	28	35	152	9	
Nowgong	148	4	26	178	...	
Sibsagar	138	25	47	210	2	
Lakhimpur	99	16	12	127	9	
Garo Hills	2	10	2	14	2	
North-East Frontier ...	...	4	...	4	...	
Total ...	779	188	238	1,205	37	

APPENDIX H.

Statement showing punishments imposed on Recorders during the year under report.

District.	Total number of recorders fined.	Fines imposed on recorders.				Fines subsequently remitted.	Net amount of fines imposed.
		Absence without leave.	Delay in submitting papers.	Other reasons.	Total.		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
		Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
Cachar ...	37	...	18 4 0	5 14 0	24 2 0	...	24 2 0
Sylhet ...	13	13 2 0	2 0 0	20 0 0	35 2 0	...	35 2 0
Goalpara ...	10	12 2 5	...	16 8 0	28 10 5	...	28 10 5
Kamrup ...	316	371 12 11	76 0 0	328 8 3	776 5 2	12 5 1	764 0 1
Darrang ...	44	18 12 0	7 4 0	43 0 0	69 0 0	...	69 0 0
Nowgong ...	149	131 12 0	47 8 0	56 0 0	235 4 0	...	235 4 0
Sibsagar ...	77	26 0 0	55 0 0	122 8 0	203 8 0	...	203 8 0
Lakhimpur ...	99	48 3 0	119 0 0	13 8 0	180 11 0	...	180 11 0
Garo Hills ...	4	8 0 0	...	6 15 6	14 15 6	...	14 15 6
Total ...	749	629 12 4	325 0 0	612 13 9	1,567 10 1	12 5 1	1,555 5 0

APPENDIX I.

Statement showing travelling allowance drawn by Supervisor Kanungos and Recorders.

	Travelling allowance drawn by Supervisor Kanungos.	Travelling allowance drawn by Recorders.
	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
Cachar	84 1 0	79 10 0
Sylhet	394 10 6	733 5 6
Goalpara	89 9 0	84 4 6
Kamrup	176 15 3	802 11 6
Darrang	48 5 9	571 15 9
Nowgong	84 15 3	547 3 3
Sibsagar	52 13 0	125 14 0
Lakhimpur	176 14 6	29 2 3
Garo Hills	8 3 0	Nil
Total ...	1,016 7 3	2,974 2 9

A. S. P. O. (R. & Agri.) No. 50—205—2-2-1920—A. E. R.

Resolution on the Survey and Settlement Report, Assam, for the year ending the 30th September 1919.

Extract from the Proceedings of the Chief Commissioner of Assam in the Revenue Department, No. 476R., dated the 31st January 1920.

READ—

The Survey and Settlement Report, Assam, for the year ending the 30th of September 1919.

RESOLUTION.

PROPOSALS on the subject of the future conduct of surveys in Assam were submitted to the Government of India shortly before the close of the year under report. Alternative arrangements have since been suggested by the Surveyor-General, and the Chief Commissioner's views on the subject have recently been communicated to the Government of India. It is probable that the existing arrangement by which the Assam Surveys are under the control of the Superintendent, Eastern Circle, Survey of India, which came into force in December 1915 and which has worked satisfactorily since then, will be maintained. The Chief Commissioner is indebted to Lieutenant-Colonel Robertson, C.M.G., for the continued success of this arrangement during the year.

The traverse of 322 villages in which settlement is to be undertaken was completed by the Assam Traverse Party, and the demarcation of certain important boundaries, including that of the Sylhet-Tippera boundary of which 7½ miles were completed, and a preliminary inspection of the Goalpara-Kamrup boundary in company with the District Officers, also constituted part of the work of the party during the year.

The Shillong Drawing Office printed 20,851 copies of maps as compared with 42,948 copies in the previous year. The reasons for this considerable decrease in the output have not been furnished.

In the Survey School 21 mandals from different districts were trained in map drawing, and 21 other less efficient mandals were given special training. All of them attained the required degree of proficiency. In the mandals' certificate examination 11 pupils appeared, of whom only 4 passed; the result is unsatisfactory.

Mr. Gasper, Assistant to the Officer in charge of the Assam Traverse Party and the Drawing Office, returned from military duty during the year, but was subsequently deputed to foreign service in Manipur, and his successor has not yet been selected.

2. Mr. Gimson's report on the experimental settlement operations in Sylhet engaged the attention of the Chief Commissioner during the year under report, and his views on the subject have been communicated to the Government of India. The Director of Land Records has mentioned in his report the question of the settlement of the *Ilam* areas in Sylhet which expires on the 31st of March 1922. The suggestion has been made to the Government of India that the settlement of the temporarily-settled estates in Sylhet should be deferred until the survey and settlement of the whole district is undertaken, if there is a possibility of the latter being taken up in the near future.

The resettlement operations in the Jaintia Parganas in Sylhet resulted in an increase of revenue of Rs. 40,721 or 21·38 per cent. The reclassification of land taken up after the last resettlement of the district of Nowgong yielded an increase of revenue of Rs. 11,157. Similar operations are now in progress in the district of Darrang. The Chief Commissioner visited Tinsukia in February 1919 and enquired into the question of the resettlement of the area in and around the village. As a result of his enquiries, revised rates of assessment were fixed, and orders were issued directing the resettlement of the area with effect from the first of April 1919. At the same time the Chief Commissioner cancelled the orders which extended to this area the rules for the grant of leases and settlement of land revenue in respect of town lands.

3. The number of resident recorders, including those exempted from residence, fell from 1,026 to 1,017. The decrease was due to the receipt of more accurate figures from Cachar. In connection with certain patwaris of that district, Mr. McSwiney's

suggestion that, if their residence within 2 miles does not interfere with the efficient discharge of their duties and if it is not possible to replace them by qualified resident candidates, they should be exempted from the liability of being actually resident in their lots, is in accordance with rule 6 of the Assam Land Records Manual. The attention of the District Officers was drawn in paragraph 3 of last year's Resolution to the desirability of granting exemption to non-resident recorders when the enforcement of the rule would be productive of hardship.

4. Proposals that the previous service of supervisor kanungoes, who are promoted recorders, should count towards pension, and that when on leave, other than privilege leave, all supervisor kanungoes should be permitted to draw not less than half pay as leave allowance, are being considered by the Local Administration and will shortly be submitted to the Government of India. Proposals are also under consideration with a view to granting recorders on recess free quarters and more liberal halting allowances. The Director of Land Records has drawn attention to the necessity for the grant of reasonable charges to recorders for the carriage of records. This question recently came to the notice of the Chief Commissioner in connection with the Director's inspection note on land records in Cachar. It is important that recorders should be reimbursed for their actual expenditure in this respect, and the Chief Commissioner trusts that all District Officers will see that neither more nor less than this is done.

5. The land records in the Assam Valley Districts are reported to be in a fairly satisfactory condition, and the work of the Circle Officers, with few exceptions, good. The report of the Assistant to the Director of Land Records, Rai Sahib Debendra Kumar Mukherjee, is a record of careful inspection work which the Chief Commissioner has read with much interest. Sir Nicholas Beatson Bell is glad to learn that a good beginning has been made in the attempts to improve the state of the *Ilam* records in Sylhet and that the heavy arrears which have accumulated since the record attestation at resettlement in Cachar and Jaintia Parganas are being reduced. It appears that in several districts there is still room for considerable improvement in the maintenance of land records, and the Assistant to the Director's remarks on the Khangia Circle, about the conversion of annual into periodic leases before the land was traversed, require attention. This neglect of rule 105 of the Land Records Manual, which has only recently been revised, will, it is hoped, not escape the notice of the District Officer.

The Director of Land Records has submitted certain proposals, which are at present under consideration, with regard to the simplification of the mutation registers. Orders on the subject will shortly be issued. The question of the submission of *faut ferar* and *jotrahin* lists under rule 23 of the Land Records Manual, read with the instructions on the subject contained in rule 126 at page 211 of the Land Revenue Manual, has also for some time past been engaging the attention of the Chief Commissioner.

6. The duties of Subdivisional Officers in connection with the inspection of land records work were clearly explained in this Administration's letter No. 2156R., dated the 20th September 1912, and in paragraph 8 of the Resolution for the year 1913-14; and the Chief Commissioner regrets to find that, except in the case of the four officers mentioned by the Director of Land Records, these duties have been generally overlooked. He trusts that the Commissioners will take steps to remind the officers at fault of the necessity of observing Government's orders on the subject to which the Chief Commissioner attaches special importance.

7. No proposals on the subject of the roster of inspections, which was mentioned at the end of paragraph 5 of last year's Resolution, have as yet been submitted by the Director of Land Records. The Director has, however, in his present report again drawn attention to the pressing claims of the Agricultural Department which prevent him from devoting as much of his time as hitherto to land records inspection work.

8. The Chief Commissioner is glad to acknowledge the careful and painstaking administration of his department by Mr. McSwiney, and has noted the names of the officers who have been specially selected by him for commendation.

ORDER.—Ordered that this Resolution and the Reports of the Superintendent, Eastern Circle, Survey of India, in charge Assam Surveys, and the Director of Land Records be published in the *Assam Gazette*.

By order of the Chief Commissioner of Assam,

A. W. BOTHAM,

Chief Secretary to the Chief Commissioner of Assam.

A. S. P. O. (R. & Agri.) No. 50—205—2-2-1920—A. E. R.

REPORT

ON THE

SURVEY AND SETTLEMENT OPERATIONS IN ASSAM

FOR THE

Year ending the 30th September 1920.

SHILLONG:

PRINTED AT THE ASSAM SECRETARIAT PRINTING OFFICE.

1921.

Price 2 shillings.] [*Price 1 rupee.*

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ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE

SURVEY OPERATIONS

IN

ASSAM

FOR THE

Year ending 30th September 1920.

No. 1672, dated Shillong, the 15th November 1920.

From—Major E. T. RICH, C.I.E., R.E., Officiating Director of Surveys, Assam,

To—The Chief Secretary to the Hon'ble the Chief Commissioner of Assam.

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report on the Provincial Survey Department of Assam for the Survey year 1919-20.

Lieut.-Colonel W. M. Coldstream, R.E., held the administrative charge of the Department up till 19th April 1920. He was then appointed to act for the Surveyor General of India and I took over the control of the Department with effect from 20th April 1920.

Mr. A. B. Smart, Deputy Superintendent, Survey of India, remained in the executive charge of the Assam Traverse Party and Drawing Office throughout the year under report. He retired from the service on attaining the age of 55 on the 27th September 1920 and has again been re-employed for one year.

Mr. B. C. Gasper, Extra Assistant Commissioner, an Assistant to the Officer in charge, Assam Traverse Party and Drawing Office, has been transferred to Manipur from 9th November 1919 and Mr. J. S. Rogers, Extra Assistant Commissioner, has been appointed in his place from 12th April 1920. Mr. Gasper's transfer is a great loss to the Department as he is a capable and reliable officer.

REPORT ON THE WORK OF THE ASSAM TRAVERSE PARTY.

A list of survey operations with brief details of the work done by the Party in each case is attached hereto.

Technical descriptive details are not given, but they are, as usual, filed in my office, and can be referred to at any time.

I give below, in tabular form, a list of those operations which could not be completed during the season, although their completion was included in the programme for the year.

The statement shows the work remaining to be done and reasons for non-completion in each case :—

Name of operation.	Work remaining to be done.	Explanation.
1	2	3
Extension Survey in district Lakhimpur.	Survey of 26 villages ...	Absence of two traversers on medical leave and failure of advanced demarcation.
Extension Survey in district Sibsagar	Survey of 6 villages ...	As above.
Extension Survey in district Cachar	Survey of 15 villages ...	The work was excluded from the programme at the request of Deputy Commissioner, Cachar, *vide* his letter No. 3353R. of 23rd October 1919.

Name of operation.	Work remaining to be done.	Explanation.
1	2	3
Traversing of untraversed portion of Hakaluki Haor, district Sylhet.	Whole work ...	Work postponed, *vide* Deputy Commissioner, Sylhet, Telegram of 22nd March 1920.
Traversing of Chapghat-Borthal villages, district Sylhet.	Ditto ...	Work postponed, *vide* Deputy Commissioner, Sylhet, Telegram of 23rd March 1920.
Traversing and Survey of Batamaral Ail, district Sylhet.	Ditto ...	Work postponed, *vide* Deputy Commissioner, Sylhet, Telegram of 25th November 1919.
Traversing and temporary demarcation of inter-district boundary between Sylhet and Cachar.	Ditto ...	Work postponed, *vide* Deputy Commissioner, Sylhet's letter No. 563W. of 27th August 1919.
Traversing and permanent demarcation of the boundary between the Permanently-settled Estates and Duars, district Goalpara.	Nine masonry pillars remain to be built.	Early setting in of the rains at the end of the field season.

The following operations, which were not known at the time of submission of the programme to Government, and were consequently not included in the programme submitted to the Local Administration, *vide* my No. 1494—I-8, dated the 31st October 1919, were also carried out during the year under report.

Checking of waste land Case No. 8, *Bansmuli Tea Estate, district Lakhimpur.*—The Grant had been surveyed by one of the approved surveyors and was resurveyed by this Department to test the accuracy of the work.

Checking of waste land Case No. 16, *Deamuli Tea Estate, district Lakhimpur.*—The Grant had been surveyed by one of the approved surveyors and was resurveyed by this Department to test the accuracy of the work.

Survey and demarcation of the boundary between Islington Estate and Polo View in Shillong, district Khasi and Jaintia Hills.—The work has been completed and a comparative map has been supplied.

Demarcation of the boundary of the new rifle range for Gurkha Rifles, Shillong, district Khasi and Jaintia Hills.—The boundary has been demarcated. The Deputy Commissioner will arrange to erect permanent boundary marks.

Checking of waste land cases surveyed by the approved surveyors.—Sixty-eight waste land cases were checked during the year under report.

MISCELLANEOUS.

District Darrang.

A list of the villages traversed and cadastrally surveyed by the Survey Department was supplied to the Deputy Commissioner of Darrang.

District Sibsagar.

Traverse data of a village was supplied to Messrs. J. N. Boruah & Sons.

District Goalpara.

Traverse data of Parganas Taria, Ghurla and Mukrampur of surveys made in 1842 has been supplied to the Gouripur Estate.

Traverse data and map of Pargana Ghurla surveyed in 1853-54 have been supplied to the Director of Surveys, Bengal.

Traverse data of Goalpara-Bhutan boundary from pillar No. 233 to pillar No. 242 has been supplied to the Director of Surveys, Bengal.

Drawing Office.

(*a*) *Reproduction Section.*—The total output of the Assam Drawing Office was 25,595 copies of maps against 20,851 copies in the previous year.

I give below the details of the maps printed district by district:—

District.	Village map.	Miscellaneous map.	Jurisdiction map.	District map.
1	2	3	4	5
Darrang	5,010	75	600	152
Garo Hills	1,215	...	...	...
Goalpara	1,113	250	...	...
Kamrup	1,202	...	...	300
Khasi and Jaintia Hills ...	...	20	...	...
Lakhimpur	40	360	600	100
Nowgong	195	1,200	300	200
Sibsagar	259	6	750	...
Sylhet	252	...	...	300
Miscellaneous	...	11,096	...	...
Total	9,286	13,007	2,250	1,052

During the year under report 9,286 copies of Cadastral maps, 13,007 copies of Miscellaneous maps, 2,250 copies of Jurisdiction maps, and 1,052 copies of District maps of Assam for schools were printed.

(*b*) *Mapping Section.*—The following Jurisdiction maps of Assam have been printed and distributed:—

1. Lakhimpur, four circles—600 copies.
2. Darrang ditto 600 „
3. Sibsagar, five circles—750 copies.
4. Nowgong, two circles—300 „

The printing of the school maps of districts Sylhet, Cachar, Kamrup, Nowgong, Lakhimpur and Darrang has been completed and copies supplied.

The proof copies of the maps of districts Goalpara, Sibsagar and Garo Hills have been received back with corrections and the originals are being corrected accordingly.

The total recoveries for reproduction work amounted to Rs. 3,657 against Rs. 2,177 for last year.

(*c*) *Record Section.*—One thousand two hundred and eigthty-three original Cadastral and Topo maps and nineteen traces for reproduction were received and racked.

Assam Land Surveying School.

Mr. G. C. Bardalai was the Principal of the school up till July 15th, and when he reverted to the general line Mr. S. N. Datta, Sub-Deputy Collector, succeeded him from 16th July 1920.

The officers' training class was opened on 10th November 1919, when three Indian Civil Service officers, eight Extra Assistant Commissioners and nine Sub-Deputy Collectors joined the class.

These officers were trained both in Survey and Settlement. All of them passed the test and have since been declared proficient in survey and settlement.

The special class commenced on 1st February 1920 and lasted for three months.

Eight students who joined the class all obtained the minimum marks required for a pass and they have all been given pass certificates.

The instruction in azimuth observations will not in future be given to the students of this class and the subject has now been excluded from the course

No mandals from any district attended the drawing class this year.

The training of the less efficient of the mandals now serving was undertaken on 1st November 1919 and three mandals from the Garo Hills and one from the Darrang district joined the class. They were examined at the end of the session and three of them attained the required degree of proficiency.

The ordinary mandal or patwari class was opened as usual on the 2nd January 1920 when 45 candidates from different districts were admitted. They have since been examined. Fourty-two qualified and three failed to pass the test. The result is satisfactory.

All the mandal-class students spent one month in the field and learnt practical record writing. This is the first time that the mandals were sent out for instruction in practical record writing.

Inspection.

Colonel Coldstream inspected the Assam Land Surveying School twice and I also inspected the school twice during the year under report.

Colonel Coldstream and I both inspected the work of the Assam Traverse Party and Drawing Office when occasion arose.

Services of Officers.

Mr. A. B. Smart the officer in charge of the Assam Traverse Party and Drawing Office is an officer of great experience and has carried out his duties in a satisfactory manner.

Pandit Mam Raj Sharma, the Head Clerk of my office, has proved himself reliable and capable in his duties.

LIST OF SURVEY OPERATIONS, 1919-20.

Serial No.	District.	Nature of work with brief description.	Present state of completion.	For Government or private agency.
1	2	3	4	5
1	Garo Hills ...	Extension traverse for cadastral Survey.	Nine villages traversed. Area 49 square miles.	Government.
2	Nowgong ...	Ditto ditto ...	Two villages traversed. Area 1·04 square miles.	Ditto.
3	Darrang ...	Ditto ditto ...	Five villages traversed. Area 3·63 square miles.	Ditto.
4	Lakhimpur ...	Ditto ditto ...	Thirty-eight villages traversed. Area 31·79 square miles.	Ditto.
5	Sibsagar ...	Ditto ditto ...	Thirty villages traversed. Area 37·43 square miles.	Ditto.
6	Goalpara ...	Surveying of the towns and its suburbs.	One main block and nine interior blocks traversed. Area 2·59 square miles.	Cost borne by Mechpara Wards' Estate.
7	Sylhet ...	Permanent demarcation of boundary between Dohalia Hills and Tartarbond.	The boundary for about 3½ linear miles was demarcated and 35 concrete blocks were erected.	Government.
8	Goalpara ...	Checking of Mechpara-Chapar boundary.	Fifty-two linear miles of boundary were traversed and surveyed.	Private parties.
9	Ditto ...	Traversing and survey of the arbitration boundary between Mechpara and Gouripur Estates.	Nineteen linear miles of boundary were traversed, demarcated and surveyed.	Ditto.
10	Ditto ...	Traversing and permanent demarcation of the boundary between the parmanently-settled estates and Duars.	One hundred and seventy-three linear miles in length of boundary were permanently demarcated, traversed and surveyed.	Half cost to be borne by Government and half by private parties.
11	Goalpara, Garo Hills.	Replacing the marks of Goalpara-Garo Hills boundary.	Sixty pillars and two telegraph posts have been removed to correct positions. Seventy-four *dhips* were demolished, 116 *dhips* have been erected in their proper positions.	Government.
12	Kamrup, Darrang	Traversing and temporary demarcation of inter-district boundary between Kamrup and Darrang.	Thirty-three linear miles of boundary demarcated and 50 linear miles traversed.	Ditto.

E. T. RICH, *Major, R.E.,*

Offg. Director of Surveys, Assam.

No. 122—951.

FROM

J. McSWINEY, ESQ., I.C.S.,
DIRECTOR OF LAND RECORDS AND
AGRICULTURE, ASSAM,

TO

THE CHIEF SECRETARY TO THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER
OF ASSAM.

Dated Shillong, the 16th December 1920.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to submit a report on the work of the Department of Land Records and Settlement in Assam for the year ending the 30th September 1920.

I have the honour to be,

SIR,

Your most obedient Servant,

J. McSWINEY,
Director of Land Records and Agriculture, Assam.

REPORT

ON THE

DEPARTMENT OF LAND RECORDS AND SETTLEMENT IN ASSAM

FOR THE YEAR

Ending the 30th September 1920.

PART I.—RESETTLEMENT.

General.

1. As noted in the report for last year, we are still in an interval of settlement periods. During the year Mr. Gimson's final report on the experimental survey and settlement of the Dassana parganas, Renga, Baraya and Dakshinkach, in Sylhet, was submitted to the Government of India. The latter have concurred in the view that a record-of-rights for the whole of the permanently-settled area of the district should be prepared and the whole or part of the cost should be recovered from the landlords and tenants. The problem of undertaking the necessary legislation and providing the initial cost will in due course be examined. The Commissioner, Surma Valley and Hill Districts, submitted his report on the economic condition of Pratabgarh pargana as well as a report regarding the re-settlement of the *ilam* land in the same district. The re-settlement of the former apart from the latter is not an urgent matter. The Chief Commissioner has postponed, till after the introduction of the new régime consequent on the reforms, the consideration of (1) whether it would be within the sphere of practical politics to finance the preparation of a record-of-rights for the whole district in the near future and (2) whether the re-settlement of the *ilam*, etc., areas, including Pratabgarh, should be undertaken at once or left to be taken up with the record-of-rights for the permanently-settled areas.

2. The re-classification of land taken up after the last re-settlement of Darrang and the survey of the large area of new land taken up in the same period was completed early in the year and the report on the results of the operations was received in February 1920. In all 69,588 fields with an area of 157,021 bighas were reclassed, while the new survey covered an area of 196·67 square miles in 267 villages. Briefly, the operations resulted in an increase of annual revenue amounting to Rs. 67,974 made up of the following items :—

	Rs.
Due to re-classification	47,392
Due to concealed cultivation discovered	8,000
Due to assessment after survey	18,259
Total	73,651
Deduction by application of flat rates in Tezpur	5,677
	67974

Much credit is due to Srijut Bharat Chandra Das, who supervised the operations as Assistant Settlement Officer, and this has already been acknowledged by the Local Administration.

The re-settlement of certain time-expired leases in the Langai Singla disforested area of Karimganj in Sylhet was sanctioned with effect from the 1st April 1920, including the re-assessment of Isabil Tea Estate at the recognised rates for special cultivation.

As usual extension survey was carried out by local agency in all the districts except Goalpara and Nowgong, as shown in Appendix D. The area surveyed amounted to 21 square miles only. In the Garo Hills Mauza No. VII with an area of 17·45 square miles in 76 villages was resurveyed in addition to the mapping of 2 square miles of new cultivation in 49 villages.

In letter No. 2861R., dated the 4th September 1920, the Chief Commissioner directed the preparation of a record-of-rights of the Goalpara Municipal area and its suburbs under the provisions of the Bengal Tenancy Act, 1885, the required sections of which were extended to Goalpara district and the area in question by Notifications No. 1388R., dated the 16th April 1920, and No. 3601R., dated the 8th November 1920. A special Settlement Officer has since been appointed: rules have been framed and preliminary arrangements have made good progress. In Karimganj subdivision of Sylhet a block of 12·81 square miles of the Duhalia Hills will be surveyed with a view to the determination of certain claims preferred by the proprietors of the neighbouring permanently-settled taluks. Preliminary action in regard to this work has already been taken. The re-classification of the lands taken up in the Lakhimpur district since the last re-settlement is due on 1st April 1922: there are also large arrears of survey to be done in this district, but it is unlikely that any thing can be done before next field season owing to the difficulty of securing an officer with settlement experience to supervise the operations. It has also been decided to make an experiment in a record-of-rights of tenants in the *nisf-khiraj* estates of Kamrup, and the Deputy Commissioner has been directed to submit proposals in the next summer recess.

PART II.—Land Records.

Recorders.

3. The sanctioned number of mandals and patwaris for the province was 1,211 on the 30th September 1920.

During the year under report 4 (2 in Cachar and 2 in Kamrup) were added to the sanctioned strength, the whole of which was actually entertained. Since the close of the year sanction has been accorded to the creation of 5 new lots in Darrang and Sibsagar and proposals have been received for 4 more from Darrang and Nowgong. Increased staff is required to cope with the extensions of cultivation, mostly by immigrants.

Under the orders contained in Local Administration's letter No. 5770-99F., dated the 23rd June 1920, and No. 8600F., dated the 27th September 1920, introducing time scales of pay, the staff of recorders has been divided into two grades, selection and ordinary, 20 per cent. of the total number of posts being placed in the former on pay of Rs. 18—$\frac{1}{3}$—20 and the remainder on Rs. 11 for a probationary period of two years and thereafter on Rs. 12—$\frac{1}{3}$—16.

The number of resident recorders, including those exempted from residence, fell again during the year under report from 1,017 to 997, as detailed in Appendix G. The decrease is shared by as many as 5 districts—Sylhet (56 to 43), Kamrup (172 to 169), Darrang (89 to 85), Nowgong (148 to 120) and Lakhimpur (99 to 90). The decrease in Nowgong and Sylhet is apparently due to the previous wrong entry of exempted mandals as resident, while in Lakhimpur inefficient residents were replaced by more competent non-residents owing to the absence of local candidates. The latter cause explains the smaller decreases in the other districts. As an example of the efforts to obtain local candidates we have a Mymensingh immigrant, Abdul Hossain, mandal of lot No. 7 of Khatoal mauza in Samuguri Circle, Nowgong. Efforts are being continued to train in the Assam Survey School candidates from localities where the mandals are not resident. Twenty-one free-studentships were granted by me during the year to candidates from lots where qualified local candidates were not available or to heirs of old resident men on the verge of retirement.

Supervisor Kanungos.

4. Effect was given from 1st April 1920 to the orders of the Local Administration sanctioning the revision of the cadre of Supervisor Kanungos in the proportion of two-thirds in the first and one-third in the second grade. There was no change in the sanctioned cadre during the year, but the pay was revised and fixed at Rs. 40—$\frac{3}{2}$—55 for the first grade and Rs. 30—1—40 for the second grade in connection with the introduction of the time-scale.

Punishments.

5. During the year 527 recorders were fined Rs. 1,229-0-10 against 749 and Rs. 1,555-5-0, respectively, in the preceding year. The average fine imposed works out at approximately Rs. 2-5-3 against Rs. 2, Re. 1-11-11 and Re. 1-14-5 during the 3 preceding years. The decrease in the number of those fined is satisfactory and points to an improvement in work. There has been very large decrease under "absence without leave" mainly in Kamrup and Nowgong; the Deputy Commissioner, Kamrup, reports that after continuous

efforts he was able to secure the regular attendance of the recorders in the last recess. One Supervisor Kanungo in Nowgong was fined Rs. 10 and the field allowances of one in Kamrup and two in Nowgong were stopped.

Travelling allowance.

6. The travelling allowance drawn (Appendix I) during the year by Supervisor Kanungos and recorders amounted to Rs. 1,551-1-2 and Rs. 3,895-14-9, respectively, against Rs. 1,016-7-3 and Rs. 2,974-2-9 in the preceding year. With a view to relieve the difficulties of the recorders during the recess sanction was accorded by the Chief Commissioner in Revenue Department letter No. 1670R., dated the 13th May 1920, to the grant to those living more than 2 miles away from the recess headquarters of halting allowances for a period of 8 weeks in the year at the rate of 4 annas a day to those who recess at headquarters where no barracks are provided and at the rate of 2 annas a day to those who recess at headquarters where barracks have been provided. This has contributed to the increase under travelling allowance drawn, which should be larger next year, when the spring recess will also be taken into account.

Sub-Deputy Collectors.

7. The details of the work done in each circle are given in Appendix B. The fairly satisfactory condition of the records on the whole mentioned in last year has been maintained. In the Surma Valley, where there is little extension of cultivation, the main duty of the Circle Officers is to keep pace with the mutations of names. In Cachar the arrears accruing from the re-settlement have been caught up and the present year starts with generally only the current work: all the Circle Officers, except Babu Biswanath Chaudhuri of Narsingpur Circle, have completed their task. The circles have been reduced in size with a view to initiating village self-government schemes and this has helped considerably, but I must mention for especially good work Babu Kamini Mohan Datta of Hailakandi Circle, while Maulvi Muhammad Ali and Babu Banshi Ballan Sarma also deserve commendation: Babu Surendra Nath Datta has been rewarded by his appointment as Principal of the Survey School. In the Jaintia Parganas mutation work has been somewhat retarded by the realisation of agricultural loans and there are still considerable arrears, especially in Kanairghat. Of the Ilam Officers Babu Biraja Kanta Ghosh continues to do excellent work and is worthy of commendation. In the Assam Valley Srijut Pampu Singh did very well in difficult circumstances in Sidli Circle of Goalpara and was promoted to the Provincial Service. In Kamrup Srijuts Jagannath Bujar Barua and Uma Nath Gohain continued their good services, while Srijut Premadhar Gohain was satisfactory and Srijut Tarini Charan Chaudhuri was energetic in a difficult charge. In Nowgong Maulvis Anwar Hossain and Habibur Rahman did useful work. In Sibsagar Maulvi Muhibuddin Ahmed continued to deserve commendation. In Lakhimpur Srijut Bholanath Kakati was hampered by ill-health but did his best in a difficult circle and Maulvi Falzur Rahman continued to do well. The mention of all these names shows that we have quite a number of useful and energetic officers.

Progress of survey.

8. Appendices C and D show the progress of survey in the plains up to the close of the year under review. As remarked in paragraph 9 of the last report, Appendix C is not particularly appropriate to this province, which has only two districts with permanently-settled land and in which a large amount of land is not likely to be surveyed for many years, if ever. Reference has already been made to Appendix D in paragraph 2 in connection with the area surveyed during the year. The Deputy Commissioner of Lakhimpur has reported the total area of his district as 4,268 square miles or 288 square miles more than in previous years. This area, he says, was transferred to his district from the Sadiya Frontier Tract and was omitted from the previous returns through mistake. From the figures in columns 2 and 7 of Appendix D it will be seen that for 29·69 per cent. (29·88 per cent. excluding the 238 square miles added to the area of Lakhimpur) of the area cadastral survey and records were complete on the 30th September 1920. These figures, as usual, exclude the area which has as yet been traversed only. As often reported, the total area of the plains includes large stretches of waste land for which detailed map and record-of-rights are and will be for many years unnecessary. The permanently-settled portions of Sylhet and Goalpara are the most important outstanding areas which are suitable for survey. In Kamrup an area of 8 square miles traversed by the Survey Department was surveyed by the local staff, besides the re-survey of some cadastral villages. Two small villages of mauza Sidli in Goalpara were cadastrally surveyed, in addition to the re-survey of 24 villages in the same circle covering an area of 10·31 square miles and the block survey of 1·65 square miles in Bijni: 8 villages in Bijni and Chirang are proposed to be traversed this season, thus completing the traverse survey of these mauzas. In the Garo Hills the resurvey of Mauza VII was completed with the exception of some

villages which adjoin the district of Goalpara where there is some confusion about boundaries. The traverse party will relay the boundaries this season and the cadastral survey will be carried out.

Maintenance of the records.

9. Appendix E gives statistics of the mutation of names effected during the year. The form of the appendix has been modified according to the revised form of mutation statement sanctioned by the Local Administration. In almost all the districts the number of periodic *pattas* has increased with the conversion of annual to periodic leases consequent on the establishment of permanent cultivation. The large number of mutations disposed in Cachar is the result of the successful efforts made to work off the arrears which accumulated in the district since the last resettlement and is a credit to the staff of Circle Officers : the arrears have by now been nearly cleared up. In all the districts of the Assam Valley except the Garo Hills and Lakhimpur there have been increases in the mutations effected; in Kamrup efforts have been made to clear up arrears which had accumulated for some years. I am, however, somewhat doubtful from the percentage figures in column 8 whether the record is really up to date in Sibsagar, Nowgong and Lakhimpur, though there are increases in the number of mutations in the two former districts. The decrease in Lakhimpur is not explained and may be due to mistakes of compilation. The figures in column 4 of the statement show that substantial assistance was rendered by the mauzadars in the Assam Valley. The proportion of the work done by them was highest in Kamrup and lowest again in Lakhimpur, though in that district there has been a decided improvement over the preceding year.

State of records.

10. In the Surma Valley I inspected all five circles of Cachar, Kanairghat in Jaintia and Ilam work in Karimganj, Habiganj and North Sylhet and the maintenance of the Dassana record. In the Assam Valley I inspected all seven circles in Sibsagar and all three circles in Dibrugarh subdivision. I also inspected the winding up of re-classification and extension survey at Tezpur. My assistant's inspections are detailed below. In the Surma Valley work in Cachar was good and the record is up to date; in the Jaintia Parganas mutation work is impeded by the realisation of agricultural loans. In the Ilam area outside Pratabgarh field mutations are retarded by the latter cause. The scheme for the maintenance of the Dassana record in the three parganas of North Sylhet drawn up by the Chief Commissioner was misunderstood and the method of office mutations adopted in the district failed to achieve the object in view: more detailed instructions were issued recently and their final form is now under consideration. Briefly, this is an experiment to maintain the record by field mutations recorded by the Chaukidari Sarpanches: it is impossible now to say whether it will be successful.

In Sibsagar and Lakhimpur much was found which demanded attention, mainly on account of inferior work in the past and the difficulty of ensuring a competent staff, particularly in the latter district, where there are large arrears of survey and assessment; we shall have to complete the latter with a special staff under a special officer. In Lakhimpur particularly the attention of the Circle Officers has been taken up by the numerous applications for land for special cultivation and there has been a distinct tendency to neglect ordinary Land Records: there was too much for the ordinary staff to do and the immediate claims of new applications for leases were answered first. One cannot expect perfection and the inspections of my assistant and myself never fail to bring to light something wrong. On the whole, I would say that, apart from one circle in Nowgong, one in Darrang, one or two in Sibsagar and two in Lakhimpur, the records are good. Practically what I said last year holds good: when we allow for the quality of the staff, which is worst in the Upper Assam Valley, the records on the whole are in fair condition. I would, however, also repeat that when the re-settlement of the Assam Valley districts is taken up in 1924 or 1925, it will be necessary to make an entirely new survey based on the present traverse. The last re-settlements aimed at considerable economy in re-survey with the inevitable result that errors crept in and by their accumulation and the original faulty method of map reproduction have made many of the village maps, especially of Kamrup and Sibsagar, fail to represent accurately the facts on the ground.

Circles which I was unable to visit owing to my being pre-occupied with agricultural duties were inspected by my Assistant, Rai Sahib Debendra Kumar Mukharjee, whose note on what he saw is appended herewith.

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR'S REPORT.

I was in charge throughout the whole year and was on tour for 286 days. I had to spend nearly 6 weeks in giving settlement training to the officers deputed for the purpose to the Survey School at Jhalukbari. During the remaining period I visited 8 districts and inspected the work of 638 recorders distributed in 48 sub-circles and 27 circles and also ran 37·05 linear miles of check line in the field. A summary of the results of my inspection is given below. The records were in fairly satisfactory condition in the Assam Valley except in a few circles where there was still room for improvement. In Kamrup the assessment of new land taken up from waste was found to be not in accordance with the Government orders in certain circles. Definite orders being issued by the Commissioner in consultation with the Director of Land Records necessary corrections were made in the records at the last regular settlement. The heavy arrears of mutations were practically overhauled in Cachar, but there were still a large number of transfers recorded by the patwaris awaiting disposal by the Sub-Deputy Collector in the Jaintia Parganas.

Kamrup.

Gauhati Circle.—Mutation work received due attention from the Sub-Deputy Collector in both the sub-circles. The condition of the records in other respects was also found to be generally satisfactory in Palasbari sub-circle, but it was not so in Gauhati where there was still much room for improvement. Here I again noticed a large number of class mistakes which could have been avoided had my previous instruction about showing classification blocks in the working maps been carried out. I also noticed several discrepancies between *chitha* and *jamabandi* in two lots of mauza Ramsha-Rani in which a systematic comparison of the records should be effected in office to reconcile the discrepancies in the names of the settlement holders. On the whole the Sub-Deputy Collector Srijut Jagannath Buzar Barua appeared to have done his best to improve the state of the records.

Chhaigoan Circle.—The results of my local verification of periodic *jamabandi* in Chhaigaon sub-circle were generally satisfactory and the records were on the whole in fair order. But the existing records of land classification in the block survey villages were far from satisfactory in certain lots and required the attention of the Sub-Deputy Collector. In the Boko sub-circle the work of re-survey done on the basis of theodolite traverse in recent years appeared to have been carefully done. But the records of the old established villages were found to be unsatisfactory in some respects. I discovered many mistakes in the classification of land taken up since 1916-17, which should be systematically checked during the recess according to my instructions. The maps in most of the lots were very old and the method of survey open to objection in some cases. I also noticed mutation entries pending over one year in certain lots. The Sub-Deputy Collector should pay greater attention to the work of the mandals in the sub-circle.

Kamalpur Circle.—The mutation work in Patidarrang sub-circle, which is mostly permanent, appeared to be fairly up to-date. But I discovered a large number of mistakes in land classification in the records in this as well as in Hajo sub-circle. To guard against such mistakes in future the lines of class divisions made in 1916-17 among post-settlement *dags* should be shown in the mandals' working maps. No uniform procedure was observed in classing *dags* in villages which were re-surveyed since the re-classification of 1916-17. Necessary instructions were given to the Sub-Deputy Collector on this point. There were also discrepancies between *chitha* and *jamabandi* in certain lots of Patidarrang. Taken as a whole the records were in fair order. The Sub-Deputy Collector Srijut Khageswar Barua had already begun his work in right earnest to bring about the necessary improvement of the records.

Rangia Circle.—In Tambulpur sub-circle a beginning was made to follow the instructions given by me last year, but much still remained to be done to bring the records up to the required standard. A cursory examination of the records disclosed a large number of mistakes in land classification. I would suggest that the classification of all land taken up since 1916-17 should be systematically checked in all the lots. The results of my inspection both in field and office in the other sub-circle, *viz*, Rangia, were not very satisfactory. There appeared to be lack of intelligent supervision on the part of the Kanungo. The circle suffered from change of officers, but it is hoped that the present Sub-Deputy Collector Srijut Premadhar Gohain will be able to effect improvement before long.

Tihu Circle.—The records were found to be fairly up to date in both the sub-circles. But in certain lots I noticed a large number of discrepancies between the *chitha* and *jamabandi* regarding the names of settlement-holders. This was partly due to defective method of making mutation corrections in the records which I pointed out in the course of my inspection. A systematic comparison of the records should be carried out during the recess in order to reconcile the discrepancies. There were also a few mistakes in areas and land classification in the records in certain lots of Dharmapur. The field mutations were mostly sanctioned by the mauzadars. I noticed certain long pending mutation entries in the *chithas* of a few lots. Mutations left undisposed of in the field should be taken up by the Sub-Deputy Collector during the recess as required by rule 216 of the Land Records Manual.

Nalbari Circle.—In Nalbari sub-circle the principal duties of the mandals are the recording of field mutations and the writing of crops. I read out the periodic *jamabandi* in 5 lots and found the mutation work generally up to date except in one. Very little progress had been made in making crop entries at the time of my inspection. The remarks and suggestions made by me regarding the discrepancies between *chitha* and *jamabandi* in Tihu Circle apply with greater force to this sub-circle and early steps should be taken on the same lines to reconcile such discrepancies wherever found in the records. The condition of the records in Barkhuti sub-circle, where cultivation is mainly fluctuating, was on the whole quite satisfactory which is creditable to the Supervisor Kanungo. But the comparison of *chitha* with *jamabandi* in mauza Uparbarbhag suggested by me at my previous inspection was not carefully done in certain lots.

Bojali Circle.—Here I inspected work only in one sub-circle, *viz.*, Bojali and on the whole found the results to be fair. Except in one lot the records were generally free from mistakes in land classification. Mutation work appeared to have been somewhat neglected in 3 out of 7 lots in which I carried out local verification. I noticed irregularities in the classification of land in certain re-surveyed

villages and also pointed out some other minor defects in general procedure. More thorough supervision on the part of the Kanungo should be insisted on in order to improve the state of the records.

Barpeta Circle.—The instructions given at my last inspections were generally carried out and on the whole the records were found to be in fairly satisfactory condition in both the sub-circles. The area mistakes discovered were mainly due to omission on the part of the mandals to revise the areas of *dags* of which the boundaries are altered in the map either on re-survey or on *partal*. The Sub-Deputy Collector Srijut Rameswar Saikia continued to do well.

Raha Circle.—Here I inspected work only in one sub-circle, *viz.*, Jagi Road and my inspection was confined to the testing of field work chiefly in the fluctuating mauzas. The results were found to be satisfactory in all respects for which the credit is due to the Kanungo as well as to the Sub-Deputy Collector, Maulvi Anwar Hussain. The survey marks that I came across in the course of my inspection were in fairly good condition in most cases.

Nowgong.

Nowgong Circle.—The survey work in Geruabakani, where cultivation is entirely fluctuating was found to be fairly satisfactory except in a few villages which contained bad mistakes and required re-survey. There is practically no mutation work here except in one lot where the records were found to be generally up to date. Due attention appeared to have been paid to maintenance of survey marks by most of the mandals. I could not devote much time to Dhing sub-circle, but there sults of my check lines were generally far from satisfactory. From what little I could see in the field I think there is still much room for improvement in the state of the records. The work in Nowgong sub-circle was on the whole well-managed and the records generally free from mistakes, but I noticed a few cases of discrepancies between *chitta* and *jamabandi* regarding the names of settlement-holders. Steps should be taken to have vandyke prints of the maps of the re-surveyed villages in Juria and the mandals should be provided with class maps of villages in which there was re-classification of post settlement *dags*.

Samaguri Circle.—The records in Silghat sub-circle were not in a very healthy conditoin. The results of my inspection in the field were anything but satisfactory. Measurement of land by *tar* should be discouraged and chain survey at least by triangulation should always be insisted on. Mutation work appeared to have been neglected in 3 out of 7 lots in which I carried out local verification. In lot 1 of Bhelauguri new periodic leases were issued without proper check of survey and area calculation and the old Kanungo was transferred for his gross neglect of duties. The work in Samaguri sub-circle appeared to have been better supervised by the Kanungo and the survey was found to be generally accurate. The records were fairly up to date and there were no serious mistakes in areas and land classification, but I discovered a number of discrepancies between *chitta* and *jamabandi*, which were apparently due to omission to effect mutation corrections in the one or other of the records in the earlier years.

Kampur Circle.—The records in both the sub-circles were found to be fairly satisfactory. The mistakes pointed out at my previous inspection have been corrected and my instructions generally carried out. But the maps of the resurveyed villages still remained to be sent up for vandyking. There were also a few mistakes in area calculation, though not of a serious nature. Some of the mandals failed to record hot weather crops during their spring tour as required by rule 84 of the Land Records Manual. The testing of the *faut ferar* lists of the previous year by the Sub-Deputy Collector was insufficient.

In this district the mandals had to be detained in office for a pretty long period on account of heavy recess work connected with the re-classification of land taken up after the last resettlement and the extension survey operations which had been undertaken in the previous year and so they could hardly pay due attention to their ordinary duties. I made detailed inspection of all the 8 sub-circles and drew attention to the arrears of work that accumulated in the meantime. Large areas of post settlement land were converted from annual into periodic in most of the sub-circles, but I noticed that in some cases this was done without proper check of survey as required by rule 105 of the Land Records Manual. I also discovered several mistakes in the areas of such *dags* in Patharughat, Bargaon and Behali sub-circles, which showed that the area calculation had not been properly checked. The apparent neglect of this important duty was no doubt due to heavy pressure of work in connection with the reclassification operations. But I would suggest that the omission should now be filled up and the survey and area calculation of the newly converted periodic *dags* should be properly checked in those cases in which this had not been done before and necessary corrections made in the records. The mandals should also be provided with a copy of the class map for each village in which re-classification was carried out to guard against mistakes in land classification in future. In Kalaigaon Circle about 20 per cent. of the periodic *pattas* in most of the villages visited by me contained unrecorded changes of possession which had taken place more than a year before. Here mutation work is, on the whole, light but little or no attention has hitherto been paid to it. In Mangaldai it was found to be generally up to date except in 2 or 3 lots In Tezpur Circle I came across certain cases in which the field mutations sanctioned in the *chitha* were not given effect to in the Jamabandi Register. The Registrar Kanungo should take steps to prevent such omissions in future. In Behali sub-circle there were several cases of wrong classification of the land taken up at the *dariabadi*. Taken as a whole the records were in fair order except in Bengbari sub-circle, where the staff is not very efficient and there appears to have been lack of proper supervision by the Kanungo in the past.

Darrang.

Subhonsiri Circle.—The maps of the villages surveyed by triangulation in the previous year were properly checked both by the Kanungo and the Sub-Deputy Collector. I tested the measurement of land in 2 such villages with good results. More attention should be paid to this work in future and attempt should be made to bring larger areas under block survey every year. The 22 villages traversed with theodolite in the previous year should be taken up first for re-survey. The mandals should be provided with class maps and class books. The Kanungo should check 10 per cent. of the mutation correction in the local periodic *jamabandis*. On the whole, the Sub-Deputy Collector Maulvi Nasibali Mazumdar appeared to have done much to improve the state of the records.

Lakhimpur.

Ranganadi Circle.—The records were found to be fairly up to date, but the results of my check by inspection in the field were not very satisfactory in certain villages. I also dis overed a large number of mistakes in area calculation in 2 lots. Very little progress was made in mapping unsurveyed areas by triangulation since my previous inspection. This should not be neglected in future. The 2 villages traversed with theodolite in the previous year remained to be cadastrally surveyed, classed and assessed on the soil unit system. The instructions given in my previous inspection notes were not carried out in some respects. Here too the mandals should be provided with class maps and class note-books The maps and records, however, bear signs of sufficient check by the Sub-Deputy Collector, Srijut Achyutananda Pathak.

Goalpara.

Eastern Duars Circle.—Here I inspected work only in Gossaingaon sub-circle. The defects pointed out at my previous inspection were removed and my instruction on other points generally carried out. On the whole, there was distinct improvement in the state of the records. The maps of the villages resurveyed in last year were sufficiently tested by the Kanungo and the Sub-Deputy Collector and their area calculations properly done in office. More villages should, however, have been taken up for resurvey during the year under report. The results of my inspection in the field were fairly satisfactory in most cases. More attention should be paid to mutation work. The mandals of mauza Guma, which was resettled in 1915-16 for 20 years, should be provided with a class book for each village.

Garo Hills.

Plains Circle.—Re-survey was going on in mauza VII at the time of my inspection. I tested the field work of 9 mandals by check lines. Barring a few casual errors the survey was found to be g nerally accurate. The maps and records were sufficiently tested by the Kanungo and the Sub-Deputy Collector and my previous instructions generally attended to. Satisfactory progress was made in the demarcation of the survey marks by earthen maunds. The field *chithas* should be deposited in the Record room and copies thereof should be taken out for mandal's use. Revenue should be calculated *dag* by *dag*. New *majmulis* of survey marks should be prepared gradually. On the whole the re-survey operations appeared to have hitherto been well conducted by the Sub-Deputy Collector, Babu Har Kumar Das.

Cachar.

I made detailed inspection of 4 out of 5 circles in the district during the recess and found the results to be satisfactory almost everywhere. The area of land taken up from waste is quite insignificant and relinquishment is practically unknown. Field mutation, which constitutes the main features of work, received due attention from the Sub-Deputy Collectors and the heavy arrears of mutation were almost cleared up in all the circles. Three additional hands had to be employed to assist the Registrar Kanungo in checking the correctness of the Jamabandi Register for the mutations sanctioned in last year. In Narsingpur Circle, however, I noticed a large number of pending mutations which should be quickly disposed of. A satisfactory progress was also made in the inspection of survey marks and preparation of *majmulis* for the same. The survey marks that remained to be inspected lie chiefly in tea gardens. Necessary steps should be taken to finish it next cold weather. My suggestions for the correction of the clerical mistakes in the settlement records were being systematically carried out. The assessment of settled land in the unsurveyed areas was still wrongly made in certain villages of Banraj and Lakhipur sub-circles. I also discovered a few omissions or mistakes in effecting mutation corrections in the records and more attention should be paid to fairing of *chithas*.

Sylhet.

Patharkandi Circle.—Since my last inspection in 1918 a 3 years' programme was drawn up with the approval of the Director of Land Records and a serious effort was made to bring the records up to date by field mutation. The programme for the first two years were practically carried out, but the Sub-Deputy Collector had still to sanction mutation in several villages at the time of my inspection. I verified the work in a few completed villages and found the results to be quite satisfactory. Almost every mutation entry made by the patwari in the *chitha* was verified by the Kanungo on the spot. The mutation corrections in the records were also carefully done. But my instructions that before any village is taken up for recording mutation a careful comparison of the *chitha* with *jamabandi* should be made in office under the Kanungo's supervision were not carried out. This was a great drawback and led to unnecessary work in some cases. New *majmulis* of survey marks were prepared for all the lots. The old maps and *chithas* should be replaced by new ones as soon as possible. The Sub-Deputy Collector, Babu Biraja Kanta Ghosh, continued to do good work.

Kanairghat Circle.—Satisfactory progress was made by the patwaris in recording transfers in the *chitha* in both the sub-circles, but there were over 10,000 mutation entries awaiting disposal by the Sub-Deputy Collector at the time of my inspection. Agricultural loans realisation was mainly responsible for such heavy arrears. Almost all the mutation corrections in the local *jamabandi* were checked by the Kanungos which is very satisfactory. Due attention was paid to inspection of survey marks.

Gowainghat Circle.—Here too there were very large number of mutation entries recorded by the patwaries in the *chitha* but not yet disposed of by the Sub-Deputy Collector in the field for the same reason. The methods of survey of new land was generally good and compact blocks of cultivation were duly tested by check lines by the Kanungos. But the Sub-Deputy Collector failed to do any testing of survey by check lines apparently for want of time. New land was properly classed and assessed, but I discovered a few mistakes in area calculation in Piyangul and Gowainghat sub-circles. New *majmulis* and registers of survey marks were completed. On the whole, the condition of the records was satisfactory in all the sub-circles.

Inspections by the Deputy Commissioners and Subdivisional Officers.

11. All Deputy Commissioners in the Assam Valley inspected the records and I am glad to report that all Subdivisional Officers, including those of Sylhet, paid fair attention to this part of their duties: there is little in the way of local inspec-

tion to be done by the Deputy Commissioners of Cachar and Sylhet. There has been no reason to complain of neglect in any district in the last year and the increasing attention paid to Land Records in the outlying subdivisions is very satisfactory.

Survey marks.

12. Appendix F contains the results of inspection of survey marks in the province. I think that owing to the attention paid for some years past to the verification of these figures, we have by now approximately correct statistics. Variations are due, as reported in previous years, to the erection of new marks with the increase in the area surveyed and allotment of grazing grounds, the loss of marks by diluvion or in jungle and the recovery of marks previously reported as lost.

There has been an increase of 850 marks in the total. It is satisfactory to find that the number of marks in good order has substantially increased, while there has been a marked decrease in those lost or left unvisited. The increase in the number of marks "not repaired," which is over 12 per cent. of the total number of marks visited is not so satisfactory, especially as I have been endeavouring, through the exclusion of unnecessary marks, to reduce the trouble of repairs. In the not distant future it would appear that, if earthen mounds, particularly on grazing grounds, are to be maintained, funds must be provided to this end. The recent orders of the Chief Commissioner to include the charges for repair in the cost of grazing ground marks should in part meet this difficulty.

PART III.—Miscellaneous.

Changes and reforms.

13. The more important of the few reforms effected during the year have already been mentioned. The form of mutation return in use till recently was cumbersome, but had to be retained as the return was intended to furnish materials for the Returns of Agricultural Statistics. The Government of India having discontinued the latter statement, it was possible to replace it by the simpler and more convenient form in Appendix E with the sanction of the Local Administration accorded in letter No. 609R., dated the 10th February 1920.

The revision of the pay of Supervisor Kanungos and recorders gives them on the whole a much higher proportionate increase than any other employees of Government and should be a means of attracting better candidates, especially in the more backward tracts.

The annual cost of the staff of recorders on the old scale of pay was Rs. 1,44,936 or an average of Rs. 10 per month *plus* an average of Rs. 1-8-0 per month as grain compensation allowance, making a total of Rs. 1,66,760: the cost of the new scale is Rs. 2,37,000 giving an average of over Rs. 16-5-0 per month, a rise of nearly 42 per cent. The annual cost of the Kanungos' pay was Rs. 35,040 or an average of Rs. 36-8-0 per month, or Rs. 41-8-0 with special war allowance: the new scale costs Rs. 45,282 equivalent to an average of Rs. 41-2-0 per month or over 32 per cent. over the old scale of pay.

I mentioned in paragraph 14 of the last report my proposal to exempt Supervisor Kanungos from the operation of Article 147 (*iii*) of the Civil Service Regulations and to grant them half pay as leave allowance when they are on leave other than privilege leave. They have been exempted from the operation of the above article and Article 335 of the Civil Service Regulations [but not from that of Article 340(*a*) when they are on leave on medical certificate] by the Government of India's Revenue and Agriculture Department letter No. 516—98-2, dated the 26th May 1920. In the same order the Government of India have allowed Supervisor Kanungos who are promoted mandals or patwaris to count towards pension their previous service as recorders. The grant to the recorders of halting allowance at more liberal rates during the recess has already been referred to in detail in paragraph 3. These improvements in pay and prospects have removed most of the legitimate grievances of the staff.

14. I was in charge of the Department throughout the whole year and spent 159 days on tour. My inspections have already been referred to. My Land Records Assistant, Rai Sahib Debendra Kumar Mukharji, continued his excellent work and has aided very considerably in the improvement of the records.

J. McSWINEY,

Director of Land Records and Agriculture, Assam.

APPENDIX B.

APPENDIX B.

Work statement of Sub-Deputy Collectors for the year ending 30th September 1920.

Name of Circle or Subdivision.	Name of Sub-Deputy Collector.	Number of recorders in the circle.	Number of recorders whose papers were checked.	Number of villages in the circle.	Number of villages visited.	Number of check lines run.	Total length of check lines run.	Number of *chitha* entries tested.	Number of *chitha* entries found incorrect.	Number of theodolite station marks inspected.	Number of mutation and partition cases effected on the spot.	Number of mutation cases done in the office.	Name of Kanungo.	Character of each Kanungo's work during the year.	Remarks.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
CACHAR.							Miles.								
Banskandi Circle ...	Maulvi Muhammad Ali ...	21	21	271	188	...	...	5,463	101	241	7,747	345	Jogesh Chandra Mitra...	Fair.	
Katigara „ ...	Babu Bansi Badan Sarma ...	16	16	187	59	2	·14	3,554	61	94	4,846	170	Ramdoyal Chakravarty	Quite satisfactory.	
Silchar „ ...	„ Kumud Chandra Datta	16	10	146	45	...	...	...	...	...	1,933	65	Pyari Mohan Bhatta		
Narsingpur „ ...	„ Bishwanath Chaudhury	21	18	242	98	...	...	...	...	141	2,993	32			
Hailakandi Subdivision.	„ Kamini Mohan Datta...	29	29	278	226	4	·75	5,105	...	105	13,645	130	Dinanath Ghosh ... Nabin Chandra Datta...	Satisfactory.	
SYLHET.															
Sadar ...	„ Biraja Kanta Roy Dastidar.	3	3	920	30	9	4·5	750	98	147	559	10	Ishan Chandra De ...	Good.	
Karimganj ...	„ Tara Charan Desamukhya.	4	4	570	115	5	·42	1,331	12	148	518	80	Chandra Kumar Bose	Fair.	

Patharkandi	,,	,, Biraja Kanta Ghosh ...	6	6	206	57	...	...	...	...	82	417	79	Abdul Hussein ...	Honest and hard working.
														Hridoy Chandra Ghosh	Good.
South Sylhet	,,	,, Surendra Nath Chaudhuri.	5	5	929	98	5	2·07	615	...	270	...	167	Abdul Khalique ...	Fair.
														Md. Innas ...	
Habiganj	,,	Maulvi Darajuddin Ahmad...	2	2	541	20	3	·17	277	10	70	...	...	Janaki Nath De ...	Fair.
Sunamganj	,,	Babu Kumud Chandra Datta	3	3	164	32	10	1·50	280	15	44	193	...	Gopal Chandra Chatterjee.	Quite satisfactory.
														Hari Mohan Das ...	Good.
Gowainghat	,,	Maulvi Azizur Rahman ...	30	30	451	435	...	...	677	10	36	7635	117	Jajneswar Dutta ...	Fair.
		,, Md. Asghar ...		30		18	...	...	49	3	2	655		Madaris Ali ...	
Kanaighat	,,	,, Abdul Wahid ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10	Fazil Baksh ...	Up to the mark.
		,, Md. Asghar ...	20	...	269	...	...	...	...	...	...	310	35	Haradayal Sarma ...	Careful and energetic.
		Babu Binode Behari Roy Barman.		20		88	1	·57	...	...	8	3,841	156		
GOALPARA.															
Eastern Duars	...	Srijut Pampu Singh ...	45	45	766	216	193	38·61	4,519	244	497	258	1	1. Jatraram Das ...	Tolerable.
		Babu Binode Bihari Rai Barman.												2. Kamalnath Das ...	Satisfactory.
		Srijut Ramananda Chaudhury												3. Hari Das Das ...	Ditto.
														4. Broja Mohan Das ...	Ditto.
KAMRUP.															
Gauhati Sadar circle.		Srijut Jagannath Bujar Barua	38	37	325	208	25	10·86	3,437	77	423	1,313	150		
Chhaigaon Circle	...	Ditto ditto ...	45	17	393	40	4	·55	315	6	45	379	6	1. Sibram Das ...	Fair.
		Babu Krishna Behari Roy Choudhuri.		21		110	...	...	1,964	149	40	533	18	2. Sarat Chandra Choudhuri.	
		Srijut Kshisna Kumar Medhi		29		55	5	2·19	507	...	69	64	25		
		Maulvi Habibur Rahman ...		...		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	85		
Kamalpur	...	Srijut Khogeswar Barua ...	40	40	292	195	...	...	1,772	129	210	1,164	497	Jagannath Datta ...	Worked with interest, energy and ability.
														Munshi Illias Ali ...	Far below the mark.
Rangiya	...	,, Premadhar Gohain ...	47	47	334	177	25	7·75	819	47	63	270	387	Bhagirath Das ...	Satisfactory.
														Rupram Chandhury ...	

APPENDIX B—*contd.*

Work statement of Sub-Deputy Collectors for the year ending 30th September 1920.

Name of Circle or Subdivision.	Name of Sub-Deputy Collector.	Number of recorders in the circle.	Number of recorders whose papers were checked.	Number of villages in the circle.	Number of villages visited.	Number of check lines run.	Total length of check lines run.	Number of *chitha* entries tested.	Number of *chitha* entries found incorrect.	Number of theodolite station marks inspected.	Number of mutation and partition cases effected on the spot.	Number of mutation cases done in the office.	Name of Kanungo.	Character of each Kanungo's work during the year.	Remarks.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
KAMRUP—*concld.*							Miles.								
Nalbari Circle ...	Srijut Umanath Gohain ...	32	3	210	7	...	...	60	3	9	3	43	Durgaram Dutta ...	Experienced.	
	,, Hari Prasad Das ...		17		36	...	...	623	26	55	5	680	Dhaturam Datta ...	Experienced and competent.	
Tihu ,, ...	,, Hari Prasad Das ...	27	27	136	128	4	1·09	2,627	134	135	29	214	Purnananda Chaudhury	Satisfactory ...	
													Ugranath Sarma ...	Worked well.	
Barpeta ,, ...	,, Rameswar Saikia ...	34	34	399	358	75	31·93	3,860	99	182	390	15	.....	.....	
Bojali ,, ...	,, Tarini Charan Chaudhury.	42	42	256	203	55	25·52	1,490	237	124	1,582	222	Birahuram Deka ...	Very satisfactory.	
													Maniram Chowdhury...	Much improved.	

DARRANG.																
Tezpur Circle ...	Srijut Tarini Charan Sarma	32	31	397	184	4	3	5,687	120	178	122	...	Ratikanta Das ...	Satisfactory.		
	Maulvi Nasib Ali Mazumdar...		23		78	...	...	21	...	57	653	46	Phultungram Deka ...			
Behali Circle ...	Srijut Umanath Gohain, ...	32	...	350	274	41	17·43	8,535	323	198	790	44	Jogeswar Hazarika ...	Good, intelligent and reliable.		
	„ Tarini Charan Sarma...		...		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Ratneswar Saikia ...	Fair.		
Mangaldai Circle	„ Ramananda Chowdhury	45	26	349	74	...	·48	226	...	...	35	20	Maniram Saikia ...	Satisfactory.		
	„ Nabahash Goswami ...		17		64	9	·11	1,546	51	133	150	27	Jagat Chandra Saharia	His work deserves commendation.		
	„ Kalpa Narayan Muzumdar.		38		146	25	·31	860	172	324	895	75				
Kalaigaon ...	Maulvi Talmizur Rahman	43	43	585	485	47	13·22	6,785	375	330	165	20	Nomal Chandra Saharia	Fair.		
													Jahaj Ram ...	Tolerable.		
NOWGONG.																
Nowgong Circle...	Srijut Troilokyeswar Bhuyan	55	42	449	132	10	5·61	2,593	265	271	306	52	Surat Chandra Bora ...	Experienced.		
													Bishen Sing Chetri ...	Fair.		
	„ Debananda Bhorali ...		51		205	44	17·92	2,087	206	206	235	49	Chandra Kanta Bhuyan	Very hard working.		
Kampur Circle ...	Muhammad Abdur Rashed ...	32	32	243	183	...	...	1,210	52	109	457	44	Sreenath Bora ...	Satisfactory.		
	Maulvi Habibur Rahman ...		29		135	23	7·13	799	30	85	122	...	Bholanath Laskar ...	Fairly satisfactory.		
Roha Circle ...	„ Muhammad Muhibullah	58	44	471	136	22	12·3	744	58	303	633	52	Durgaram Das ...	Excellent.		
	„ Muhammad Anwar Hosain.		43		100	17	6·22	1,304	39	228	363	36	Dinanath Sarma ...	Good.		
													Hamoram Hazarika ...	Fairly satisfactory.		
Samaguri Circle	Babu Kunja Bihari Nandi	37	27	336	80	...	...	1,434	32	201	281	30	Govinda Ram Saikia ...	Quite satisfactory.		
	Srijut Debananda Bharali ...		10		20	1	·8	308	35	23	62	26				
	Maulvi Muhammed Abdul Quddus.		32		89	9	4·15	2,005	83	128	156	10	Kinaram Sarma ...	Not at all satisfactory.		

APPENDIX B—*concld.*

Work statement of Sub-Deputy Collectors for the year ending 30th September 1920.

Name of Circle or Subdivision.	Name of Sub-Deputy Collector.	Number of recorders in the circle.	Number of recorders whose papers were checked.	Number of villages in the circle.	Number of villages visited.	Number of check lines run.	Total length of check lines run.	Number of *chitha* entries tested.	Number of *chitha* entries found incorrect.	Number of theodolite station marks inspected.	Number of mutation and partition cases effected on the spot.	Number of mutation cases done in the office.	Name of Kanungo.	Character of each Kanungo's work during the year.	Remarks.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
SIBSAGAR.							Miles.								
Jorhat Circle ...	Srijut Bipin Chandra Bardalai	...	...	249	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	27	Mohiram Das ...	Fair.	
	Maulvi Mahibuddin Ahmed	29	29		185	49	16·14	2,520	115	172	377	56	Phanidhar Kakati ...	Satisfactory.	
Khangia „ ...	Srijut Nabahas Goswami ...	11	11	100	100	...	...	1,063	106	265	674	114	Gobindanath Ray ...	Satisfactory.	
	„ Debananda Bharali ...		...		114	...	...	1,029	51	49	133	...			
	Maulvi Muhibuddin Ahmed...		...		12	...	...	...	...	8	22	...			
Sibsagar „ ...	Maulvi Muhibuddin Ahmad	38	...	359	154	...	...	2,044	19	...	1,626	143	Umes war Sarma ...	Experienced and useful.	
	Srijut Trailokshyeswar Bhuyan.		38		298	8	5·03	3,743	674	807	2,928	308	Tarun Chandra Sarma	Good.	
													Jonaram Gogoi ...	Good.	
Nazira „ ...	Maulvi Nurul Husain Hazarika.	38	38	394	303	11	4·93	674	10	210	1,518	168	Kinaram Das ...	Tolerable.	

Moriani „ ...	Maulvi Syed Sheikhul Moshaik Chisti.	37	18	353	46	...	...	2,239	26	192	306	56	Muhiram Datta ...	Work hard and well.		
	Maulvi Majidur Rahman ...		7		10	...	...	...	...	...	11	25	Parsuram Barthakur...	Has become old and lazy.		
Golaghat „ ...	„ Muhammad Muhibullah.	33	27	261	75	6	2·84	1,261	49	95	239	61	Ratiram Das ...	Good.		
	„ Anwar Hussain ...		25		87	...	...	353	60	95	538	37	Muhidhar Barua ...	Fair.		
Kamargaon „ ...	„ Majidur Rahman ...	24	24	140	140	8	5·64	2,577	89	172	241	89	Mohan Chandra Bardalai.	Fair.		
	Babu Kunja Behari Nandi ...		...		...	...	...	1,434	...	201	282	35	Tulsiram Tamuli ...	Fair.		
LAKHIMPUR.																
Dibrugarh Circle ...	Maulvi Fazlur Rahman ...	30	30	344	260	19	6·53	5,732	94	442	714	36	Jatiram Das ...	Satisfactory.		
													Pabit Chandra Das ...			
Tinsukia „ ...	Srijut Bholanath Kakati ...	27	26	438	162	64	12·31	483	18	176	433	36	Gopal Chandra Rajkhowa.	Fairly well.		
	„ Sailadhar Rajkhowa ...		27		70	23	8·65	235	32	198	188	...	Lakheswar Das ...	Not Satisfactory.		
Tengakhat „ ...	Maulvi Amanat Ali Khandkar	34	34	615	181	19	8·07	2,066	70	75	775	37	Dinanath Gogoi ...	Good.		
	Srijut Kanakeswar Gogoi ...		...		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Dimbeswar Gogoi ...			
Ranganadi „ ...	Srijut Achyutananda Pathak	20	20	270	266	93	28·73	4,392	194	482	250	55	Mohiram Gogoi ...	Tolerably well.		
Subansiri „ ...	Maulvi Nasib Ali Majumdar...	16	16	230	216	59	23·50	3,618	139	334	399	1	Sibnath Deka ...	Well.		
	Srijut Uma Charan Gohain ...		13		96	4	2·11	287	15	45	85	1				
GARO HILLS.																
Plains Circle ...	Babu Harkumar Das ...	14	14	345	102	105	39·82	3,702	129	533	14	...	Holiram Das ...	Satisfactory.		
													Gaurikanta Pal ...			
Sadiya Frontier Tract.	*	4	4	89	89	...	...	30	...	23	50	...	.....	.....	* By Mauzadar.	

APPENDIX C.

["*Permanently-settled*" *in this table includes* "*revenue free.*"]

District.	Classification of district area (square miles).			Area for which a cadastral survey and record-of-rights are completed (square miles).			Area for which a cadastral survey and record-of-rights were being prepared in 1918-19. (square miles).			Area outstanding (square miles).			Remarks.
	Permanently-settled.	Not permanently-settled.	Total.	Permanently-settled.	Not permanently-settled.	Total.	Permanently-settled.	Not permanently-settled.	Total.	Permanently-settled.	Not permanently-settled.	Total.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Cachar	3	3,766	3,769	3	1,063	1,066	...	3	3	...	2,700	2,700	
Sylhet	3,825	1,555	5,380	89	877	965	...	1	1	3,736	678	4,414	
Goalpara	2,528	1,433	3,961	...	625	625	...	...	...	2,528	808	3,336	
Kamrup	53	3,805	3,858	53	2,881	2,934	...	8	8	...	916	916	
Darrang	8	3,398	3,406	8	1,306	1,314	...	2	2	...	2,090	2,090	
Nowgong	4	3,839	3,843	4	1,164	1,168	...	...	...	...	2,675	2,675	
Sibsagar	62	4,934	4,996	62	1,864	1,926	...	4†	4	...	3,066	3,066	* Sibsagar 3. Golaghat 1.
Lakhimpur	3	4,265†	4,268†	3	735	738	...	1	1	...	3,529	3,529	
Garo Hills	...	3,140*	3,140	...	63	63	...	2	2	...	3,075	3,075	† Includes hill tracts also.
Total	6,486	30,135	36,621	222	10,579	10,799	...	21	21	6,264	19,537	25,801	

† Revised figure furnished by the Deputy Commissioner.

APPENDIX D.

Progress of Extension Surveys for the year ending the 30th September 1920.

Name of district.	Total area of district (square miles).	Area surveyed by professional party (square miles).	Area surveyed in extension by village recorders.			Total area cadastrally surveyed (square miles).	Remarks.
			Previously (square miles).	During the year under report (square miles).	Total (square miles).		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Cachar ...	3,769	1,034	32	3	35	1,069	
Sylhet ...	5,380	545	420†	1	421	966	
Goalpara ...	3,961	...	625	...	625	625	
Kamrup ...	3,856	1,966	968	8	976	2,942	
Darrang ...	3,406	1,045	269	2	271	1,316	
Nowgong ...	3,843	1,012	156	...	156	1,168	
Sibsagar ...	4,996	1,521	405	4	409	1,930	
Lakhimpur ...	4,268*	269	469	1	470	739	
Garo Hills ...	3,140	...	63	2	65	65	
Total ...	36,619	7,392	3,407	21	3,428	10,820	

* Revised figure furnished by the Deputy Commissioner.
† An area of 288 square miles added by transfer from the frontier tract.

APPENDIX E.

Mutation statement for the year ending 30th September 1920.

District.	Classification of pattas.	Number of periodic pattas and proprietory estates in area dealt with.	Number of mutations passed.	Number of pattas affected by mutations.				Percentage of column 7 on column 2 (to be filled up by district only).	Remarks.
				By summmary procedure.		By regular procedure.	Total.		
				By Mauzadar (in Assam Valley districts).	By Sub-Deputy Collector.				
1		2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Cachar ...	Periodic-khiraj.	79,297(a)	32,360	...	25,406	485	25,891	32·6	(a) Excludes annual and 2nd class fishery pattas which were included in the last year's figures in the district return. (b) Revised previous year's figures were wrong. (c) Excludes 1,885 permanently-settled estates in the experimental area where 186 mutations were affected.
Sylhet ...		67,824 (c)	15,856	...	10,356	278	10,634	15·67	
Goalpara ...		5,231	623	257	255	89	601	11·49	
Kamrup ...		147,618(b	15,221	8,271	5,812	511	14,594	9·88	
Darrang ...		111,866	6,814	3,470	3,054	266	6,790	6·06	
Nowgong ...		72,934	5,201	2,400	2,486	128	5,014	6·64	
Sibsagar ...		176,254	14,465	5,804	7,746	915	14,465	5·78	
Lakhimpur ...		61,711	4,541	1,663	2,795	83	4,541	7·3	
Garo Hills ...		4,696	37	2	12	23	37	0·78	
Total ...		727,431	95,118	21,867	57,922	2,778	82,567	90·14	
Cachar ...	Lakhiraj.	84	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Sylhet ...		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Goalpara ...		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Kamrup ...		38	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Darrang ...		124	...	...	...	24	24	...	
Nowgong ...		4	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Sibsagar ...		81	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Lakhimpur ...		5	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Garo Hills ...		...	...	...	...		...	...	
Total ...		336	...	...	...	24	24	...	
Cachar ...	Nisfkhiraj.	(b)	...	...	...	...	...	...	(b) Nil. Last year's figure was wrong.
Sylhet ...		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Goalpara ...		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Kamrup ...		3,332	306	162	74	37	273	8·19	
Darrang ...		27	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Nowgong ...		24	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Sibsagar ...		495	1	1	...	...	1	0·2	
Lakhimpur ...		60	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Garo Hills ...		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Total ...		3,938	307	163	74	37	273	8·39	

APPENDIX F.

Condition of survey marks during the year ending 30th September 1920.

No.	Classification.	Total number of marks.	Total number found in good order.	Number found not in good order.		Total of columns 4 and 5 in good order on 1st October 1919.	Number lost or left unvisited.
				Repaired.	Not repaired.		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	Theodolite—						
	(i) Stone prisms	16,351	14,713	613	342	15,326	593
	(ii) Square stones	15,688	13,326	125	204	13,451	1,999
	(iii) Other marks	101,325	62,518	19,190	10,838	81,708	7,928
2	Boundary marks of districts, etc. (other than theodolite stations)—						
	(i) Stone prisms	391	383	...	...	383	8
	(ii) Square stones	2,064	1,092	77	289	1,169	596
	(iii) Other marks	10,069	5,708	2,073	1,758	7,781	530
3	Boundary marks of private property (other than theodolite stations)—						
	(i) Stone prisms	5,944	5,715	50	58	5,765	121
	(ii) Square stones	15,916	14,833	107	246	14,940	730
	(iii) Other marks	8,307	6,629	468	344	7,097	866
4	Kanungo's mounds	9,969	5,701	1,378	1,659	7,079	1,231
5	Grazing reserve	18,997	7,077	4,850	6,959	11,927	111
6	Fuel reserve	71	35	10	25	45	1
	Total	205,092	137,730	28,941	22,752	166,671	14,714

APPENDIX G.

Statement showing resident and non-resident Recorders on the 30th September 1920.

Name of district.	Number of resident mandals and patwaris.	Number of non-resident mandals and patwaris.	Number of mandals and patwaris who have been exempted by superior orders.	Total.	Number of mandals and patwaris who have become resident or been exempted during the year under report.	Remarks.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Cachar	43	33	25	101	2	
Sylhet	43	15	15	73	5	
Goalpara	38	5	2	45	...	
Kamrup	169	51	86	306	6	
Darrang	85	32	35	152	2	
Nowgong	120	15	44	179	...	
Sibsagar	154	23	33	210	2	
Lakhimpur	90	28	9	127	...	
Garo Hills	4	8	2	14	2	
Sadiya Frontier Tract ...	...	4	...	4	...	
Total ...	746	214	251	1,211	19	

APPENDIX H.

Statement showing punishments imposed on Recorders during the year under report.

District.	Total number of recorders fined.	Fines imposed on recorders.				Fines subsequently remitted.	Net amount of fines imposed.
		Absence without leave.	Delay in submitting papers.	Other reasons.	Total.		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
		Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
Cachar ...	27	...	7 0 0	18 14 8	25 14 8	...	25 14 8
Sylhet ...	1	...	...	6 12 5	6 12 5	...	6 12 5
Goalpara ...	9	5 0 0	9 0 0	...	14 0 0	...	14 0 0
Kamrup ...	156	51 0 0	94 0 0	474 0 0	619 0 0	61 0 0	558 0 0
Darrang ...	87	44 0 0	18 8 0	109 15 1	172 7 1	...	172 7 1
Nowgong ...	64*	14 4 0	18 0 0	50 8 0	82 12 0	...	82 12 0
Sibsagar ...	85	25 8 0	60 0 0	28 10 8	114 2 8	...	114 2 8
Lakhimpur ...	93	61 0 0	147 8 0	32 0 0	240 8 0	0 8 0	240 0 0
Garo Hills ...	5	...	...	15 0 0	15 0 0	...	15 0 0
Total ...	527	200 12 0	354 0 0	735 12 10	1,290 8 10	61 8 0	1,229 0 10

* 2 were dismissed and 2 have been placed under suspension.

APPENDIX I.

Statement showing travelling allowance drawn by Supervisor Kanungos and Recorders.

	Travelling allowance drawn by Supervisor Kanungos.	Travelling allowance drawn by Recorders.
	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
Cachar	49 12 6	36 10 6
Sylhet	591 11 2	902 12 0
Goalpara	9 3 0	108 5 0
Kamrup	484 15 6	1,337 5 0
Darrang	19 8 6	405 10 0
Nowgong	173 2 6	519 14 3
Sibsagar	43 13 0	430 4 6
Lakhimpur	165 15 0	19 12 0
Garo Hills	13 0 0	135 5 6
Total ...	1,551 1 2	3,895 14 9

A. S. P. O. (R. & Agri.) No. 36—250—8-2-1921—H. D'S.

Resolution on the Survey and Settlement Report, Assam, for the year ending the 30th September 1920.

Proceedings of the Governor of Assam in Council.

Sir Nicholas Beatson Bell, K. C. S. I., K. C. I. E., *Governor.*

The Hon'ble Mr. W. J. Reid, C. S. I.
The Hon'ble Mr. Abdul Majid, C. I. E. } *Members.*

READ—

The Survey and Settlement Report, Assam, for the year ending the 30th September 1920.

RESOLUTION.

No. 369*R.*, *dated the* 8*th February* 1921.

THE Assam Surveys continued to be under the control of the Superintendent, Eastern Circle, Survey of India, throughout the year in accordance with the temporary arrangement which came into force in December 1915. In this capacity the Superintendent is now designated Director of Surveys, Assam. The question of the future control of the department is still under the consideration of the Government of India. The Governor in Council takes this opportunity of acknowledging the Local Government's indebtedness to Lieutenant-Colonel W. M. Coldstream, R.E., and Major E. T. Rich, R.E., for their most capable management of the department.

During the year under review 84 villages with a total area of 123 square miles, as well as an area of 2½ square miles in Goalpara town and its suburbs, were traversed, and a number of important boundaries, including 50 miles of the inter-district boundary between Kamrup and Darrang, and 173 miles of the boundary between the permanently-settled estates and the temporarily-settled Duars in Goalpara, were surveyed or demarcated.

The Shillong Drawing Office printed 25,595 copies of map against 20,851 copies in the previous year.

In the Survey School 45 students attended the ordinary mandal class, of whom 42 were successful in the certificate examination. Three Indian Civil Service officers, 8 Extra Assistant Commissioners and 9 Sub-Deputy Collectors also underwent training in survey and settlement work and passed the prescribed tests.

2. The completion report of the re-classification of land taken up in Darrang since the last resettlement was received during the year. The operation yielded an increase of revenue of Rs. 67,974.

The Government of India have concurred in the view expressed by His Excellency the Governor when Chief Commissioner, as a result of the experimental record prepared for three parganas, that as soon as the money can be found a record-of-rights should be prepared for the whole of the permanently-settled area of the Sylhet district. The new Government of Assam will have to decide whether this formidable operation can be undertaken in the near future. The current settlement of the *ilam* estates and of the Pratabgarh pargana of Sylhet district will expire shortly. It would be convenient to take up the resettlement of these scattered estates along with the preparation of the record-of-rights for the permanently-settled estates, and arrangements for resettlement have therefore been postponed until it is seen whether the larger project is likely to be undertaken at an early date.

After the close of the year under report orders were issued under section 18(1) of the Assam Land and Revenue Regulation, 1886, for the survey and settlement of an area comprising 31 villages lying within the Goalpara Municipality and its suburbs under the provisions of certain sections of the Bengal Tenancy Act, 1885

which have been extended to the permanently-settled portions of the Goalpara district. Orders have also been issued for the survey and settlement of a block of land in the Dohalia Hills in Sylhet. A special Settlement Officer has been appointed for each of these operations which are now in progress.

3. Except in Lakhimpur where there are large arrears to be made up the progress of cadastral survey was satisfactory. Good work was done also in most districts in connection with the maintenance of the records. The arrears accruing from the resettlement were caught up in Cachar, and substantial efforts were made towards clearing up the arrears in Kamrup. The problem of the maintenance of the experimental record-of-rights in permanently-settled areas in Sylhet has not yet been solved, but it is hoped that instructions recently issued under which field mutations will be effected by *chaukidari sarpanches* will prove successful.

4. The rates of pay of recorders were revised during the year with those of other subordinate and menial establishments, but whereas the improvement aimed at in the case of other establishments was 20 per cent. that effected in the case of recorders amounted on the average to 42 per cent. of their previous remuneration. An improvement was also granted in the rate of halting allowance drawn during recess at headquarters. The pay of supervisor kanungos was increased by 32 per cent. and concessions were made to these officers in the matters of leave allowances and pensions. The Governor in Council agrees with the observation of the Director of Land Records that these measures have removed most of the legitimate grievances of the subordinate land records staff, the welfare of which has always been an object of care and interest to His Excellency Sir Nicholas Beatson Bell.

5. It is disappointing to find that there was a decrease in the number of resident recorders, including those exempted from residence, from 1,017 to 997, and the Governor in Council trusts that the efforts which are being made to find and train local candidates will be persistently maintained.

6. The Governor in Council notices with satisfaction that adequate attention was paid by district and subdivisional officers to the inspection of land records, and that the Director of Land Records is able to bring to notice the names of a large number of circle officers whose work during the year deserved commendation. To all these officers the Governor in Council tenders his thanks.

7. The Local Government are again indebted to Mr. McSwiney for his efficient control of the department, and to his Land Records Assistant, Rai Sahib Debendra Kumar Mukharji, for his full and careful inspections.

ORDER.—Ordered that this Resolution and the Reports of the Director of Surveys and the Director of Land Records be published in the *Assam Gazette* for general information.

By order of the Government of Assam,

A. W. BOTHAM,

Chief Secretary to the Government of Assam

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